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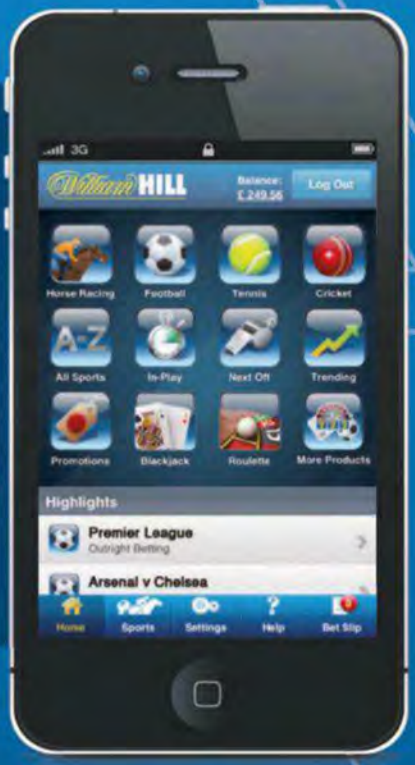

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In Pictures

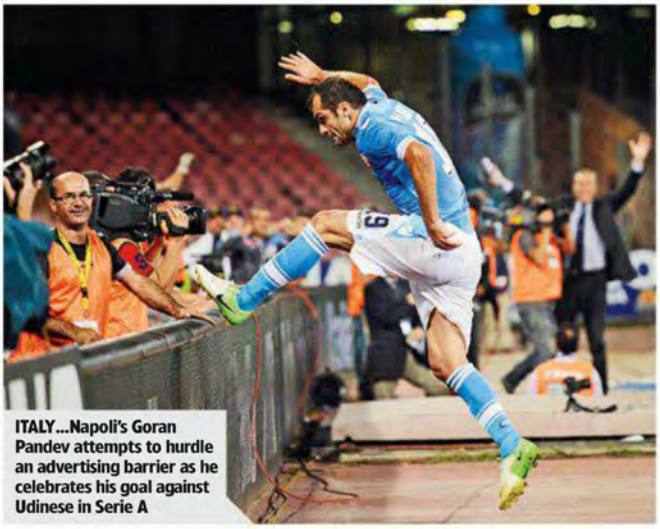
The global game caught on camera

FRANCE...Marseille's Andre-Pierre Gignac heads an equaliser in the Ligue 1 game at home to Paris Saint-Germain

UKRAINE...Dynamo Kiev fans protest against the detention of a supporter prior to their Champions League match at home to Dinamo Zagreb

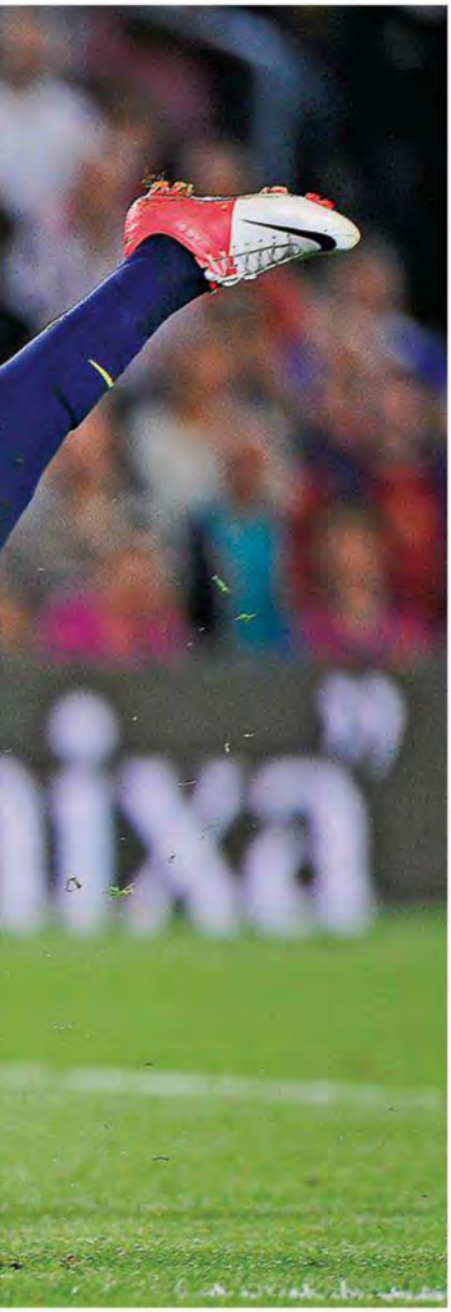
TURKEY...Braga's Custodio gets in a header watched by team-mate Douglao during their Champions League clash away to Galatasaray

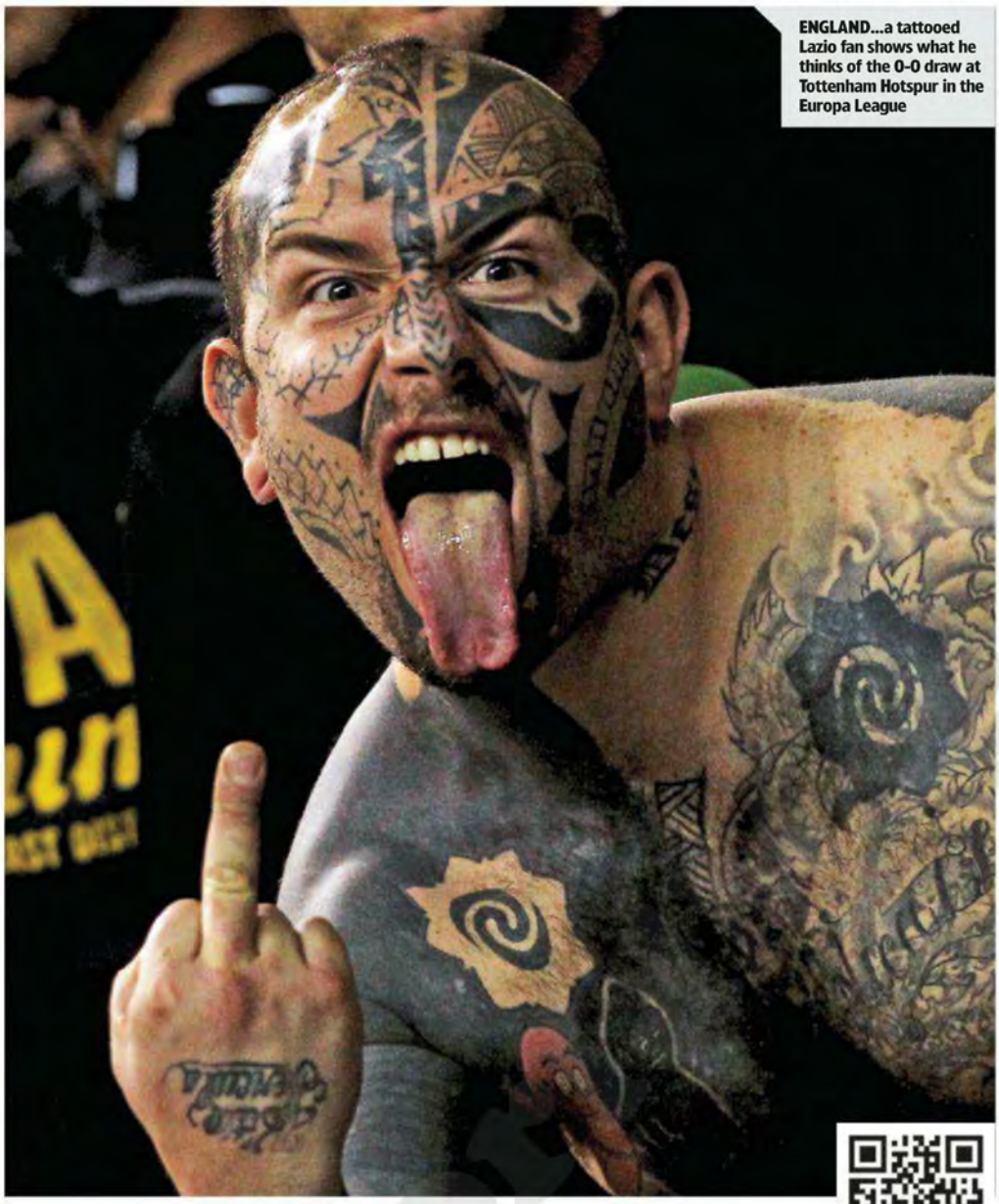
SPAIN...Barcelona's Alexis Sanchez attempts to go over the top of Granada goalkeeper Tono and defender Borja Gomez



ITALY...Napoli's Goran Pandev attempts to hurdle an advertising barrier as he celebrates his goal against Udinese in Serie A

USA...Columbus Crew's Federico Higuain takes a free-kick against Sporting Kansas City as two team-mates take care of the wall





ENGLAND...a tattooed Lazio fan shows what he thinks of the 0-0 draw at Tottenham Hotspur in the Europa League

PICTURES OF THE MONTH QR CODE

To see more of the best photos from the month, scan the QR code using any free QR reader that can be downloaded to your smartphone. You can also see the images by logging on to bit.ly/zOMWBT

FROM THE EDITOR

The vast majority of those who have won *World Soccer*'s World Player of the Year award, now in its 31st year, have won because they were the clear and outstanding individual of that calendar year. Many – the likes of Michel Platini, Ronaldo and Ronaldinho – enjoyed extended periods when they were the undisputed best player on the planet.

That is not the case in 2012. We are truly blessed to be living in an era where Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo have equal claims to be the world's best player. Never before has such a rivalry existed between two such brilliant individuals.

> We are truly blessed to be living in an era where Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo have equal claims to be the world's best player

Selecting a winner this year is made even more difficult by the presence on the shortlist (page 24) of Andres Iniesta and Xavi, two players from arguably the greatest international side of the last 40 years. Indeed, Spain's Euro 2012 victory was the year's greatest achievement.

Whoever you think deserves to win, please take the trouble to vote, either online or with the coupon on page 28.

Gavin Hamilton, Editor

10 SIGNIFICANT EVENTS THIS MONTH

1. Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo take their rivalry to a new level in the latest Spanish *clasico* ..... page 30
2. Ban for Juve coach Antonio Conte reduced to four months ..... page 8
3. Samuel Eto'o returns to Cameroon side ..... page 13
4. Russia names its 2018 World Cup host cities ..... page 74
5. Shortlists named for *World Soccer*'s World Player, Manager and Team of the Year awards ..... page 22
6. Colombian club Millonarios declare intention to hand back titles financed by drug money ..... page 34
7. Ganso joins Sao Paulo from Santos in a surprise move ..... page 42
8. Signing of Hulk and Witsel causes problems for Zenit ..... page 37
9. Alessandro Del Piero arrives in Sydney after signing up to play in the A-League ..... page 32
10. Fenerbahce cancel the contract of Brazilian midfielder Alex.. page 44

ITALY

Conte ban reduced to four months

October started well for Juventus coach Antonio Conte when Italy's sports arbitration body, TNAS, reduced the suspension handed down to him, by the country's football federation disciplinary hearing in August, from 10 to four months.

Conte had been charged with failing to report two alleged match fixes involving Serie B side Siena, the team he coached to promotion in the 2010-2011 season.

All being well, Conte should be able to reclaim his seat on the bench for Juve's December 9 game away to Palermo.

However, in a further twist, Conte may be issued with a fresh ban for voicing criticism of the federation's disciplinary process. "This is a disgrace for someone like me and it has happened only because I am the coach of Juventus, a team that is hated and loved by everyone," complained Conte.

In the meantime, the Juventus coach has opted for silence. Significantly, Juventus have stood loyally by their man throughout the affair. Club president Andrea Agnelli now reportedly wants to strengthen Conte's position within the club set-up, renewing his contract and making him both coach and manager, along the lines of someone like Manchester United's Alex Ferguson.

With or without Conte on match day, Juventus have kept on winning. Their 2-1 win at Siena means they have now gone 46 Serie A games without defeat.

Paddy Agnew

Returning...Conte will be back on the Juventus bench in December

"He's one of the top five keepers in the world. He's quicker than Friedel, he jumps higher and is very strong mentally. He should have had the same welcome as Ibrahimovic at PSG"

Ex-France No1 Fabien Barthez hits out at Tottenham Hotspur for buying Hugo Lloris (right) from Lyon and then forcing him to play second fiddle to Brad Friedel

FIFA

Bin Hammam: the plot thickens

Legal battle...Bin Hammam

There is no getting away from Mohamed Bin Hammam. The multi-faceted battle between FIFA, the Asian Confederation and its former president continues, with the only realistic prospect of a resolution being another visit to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in, probably, 2014.

The latest developments have seen FIFA prosecutor Michael Garcia stepping up the hunt for new evidence regarding the Port of Spain bribery allegations. He has also had the Ethics Committee suspend Bin Hammam's former personal assistant, Najeeb Chirakal, for refusing to co-operate with the ongoing investigation.

In addition, former AFC finance director Amelia Gan and her husband, Kong Lee Toong, have denied court charges in Kuala Lumpur that they stole a file related to a corruption probe into Bin Hammam.

Prosecutor Kee Wei Lon said the file contained documents relating to Bin Hammam's personal banking transactions.

In the meantime World Sport Group – the AFC's main commercial partner – has taken court action against James M Dorsey, a Singapore academic and writer, to force him to name the source of leaks from the confederation.

And so the plot thickens further...if that's possible.

Keir Radnedge

HEROES & VILLAINS

LUCHO GONZALEZ

Told of his father's death hours before his side's opening Champions League game, Porto's Argentinian midfielder insisted on playing against Dinamo Zagreb and opened the scoring in a 2-0 win.

Brave...Gonzalez

JURGEN LOCADIA

PSV's 18-year-old striker scored a hat-trick in the space of 11 minutes after coming on as a sub for his first-team debut in a 6-0 win against VVV Venlo.

MICHAEL MIFSUD

Malta's captain scored six goals in Valetta's 8-2 win over Hamrun Spartans in the Maltese league. Four of his goals came in the opening quarter of an hour.

MIROSLAV KLOSE

The Lazio striker owned up to scoring a goal with his hand as his club lost 3-0 to Napoli. Klose struck in the fourth minute but, after initially celebrating, he went over to the ref to inform him that it should not be given. The goal was then disallowed.

Honest...Klose

MARK VAN BOMMEL

PSV's veteran midfielder became the first player in the Dutch league to be cautioned in each of his side's opening five Eredivisie games of the season.

ANDREA MASIELLO

The former Bari defender received a 22-month suspended sentence for match fixing after admitting that he scored a deliberate own goal in the Serie A game against Lecce in May 2011.

Shamed...Masiello

GERARDO BEDOYA

The Independiente Santa Fe and former Colombia defender was banned for 15 matches for violent conduct after he was sent off for the 41st time in his career, during the Bogota derby with Millonarios.

Red mist...Bedoya

GARY LINEKER

The BBC presenter, who was working on Al Jazeera TV at the time, had to apologise after he described Montpellier players Karim Ait-Fana and Younes Belhanda – who are both Muslims – as "eating grass" as they celebrated Ait-Fana's goal against Schalke in the Champions League by kneeling in prayer.

"For those who don't know it yet, Franco is dead"

Real Valladolid coach Miroslav Djukic bemoans the lack of free speech in Spanish football after being sent off for remarks made to the fourth official in a game against Atletico Madrid

GOALS we'd like to see again

To see video footage of these goals, and many more we've selected, scan the QR code using any free QR reader that can be downloaded to your smartphone. You can also see the videos by logging on to http://bit.ly/QgYtz2

1 ROMAIN ALESSANDRINI
Rennes v Nancy
Meets a pin-point cross with a superb mid-air backheel volley past Nancy goalkeeper Damien Gregorini in a French League Cup tie.

2 ANDRIJA ZIVKOVIC
Serbia under-17s v Moldova under-17s
In a well-rehearsed corner move, the ball is played to the edge of the penalty area before three players consecutively dummy the ball to wrong-foot the entire defence leaving Zivkovic to slot home inside the post.

3 MARTIN JIRANEK
Terek Grozny v Kuban Krasnodar
Hits a swerving unstoppable shot from just inside the opposition half into the top corner.

4 FABRIZIO MICCOLI
Palermo v Chievo
A fantastic volley from the edge of the centre circle that beats Chievo goalkeeper Stefano Sorrentino for the first goal of his hat-trick.

5 KARIM BENZEMA
Real Madrid v Ajax
An acrobatic scissor-kick from the edge of the six-yard area following Kaka's cross.

6 JACKSON MARTINEZ
Porto v Sporting Lisbon
Cushions the ball on his knee before flicking it past the goalkeeper with his heel.

WINNERS

MICK TUNNICLIFFE

Won £10,000 after betting £100 that his son, Ryan (right), then nine, would one day play for Manchester United. Now 19, he made his debut in the League Cup.

KAZU MIURA

The winger was offered a contract extension by Yokohama of the Japanese second division. He is 45 years old.

ALAN PARDEW

The Newcastle United boss signed an unprecedented eight-year contract – which means if he is sacked before 2020, he will receive a handsome pay-out.

LOSERS

MARSEILLE

Following six wins from their first six league games, the French leaders came crashing down to earth with a 4-1 defeat away to mid-table Valenciennes.

GUANGZHOU EVERGRANDE

The Chinese side went out of the Asian Champions League 5-4 on aggregate to Al Ittihad.

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The Northern Irish club lost nine of their opening 10 league games this season.

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"I will miss playing or scoring a goal in front of 80,000 fans, but the last few months without football have shown me that it is time to stop"

Michael Ballack

GERMANY

'Der Capitano' Ballack bows out

Michael Ballack, long-serving former *Nationalmanschaft* captain and one of the most elegant and effective all-rounders that German football has ever produced, has finally succumbed to the sands of time and announced his retirement from the game at the age of 36.

His departure was no spur of the moment decision. In marked contrast to the rest of his outstanding career, Ballack had been running on empty for the past two seasons at Bayer Leverkusen. With no new contract forthcoming from the Rhinelanders, he did consider a move to the Gulf, the USA, China or Australia, only to ultimately reject the idea of a half-speed, semi-detached farewell tour.

"These past few months out of active football have made me see that the time was ripe to give up," said Ballack. "Now for the next chapter in my life.

"I can look back on a long and wonderful period as a professional, the sort of experience I could never have dreamed of as a kid."

So close... Ballack sports his Champions League losers' medal after Chelsea's defeat on penalties by Manchester United in the 2008 Final

Equally impressive in a controlling role in midfield, making the play or bursting forward to score, the East German-born Ballack won four Bundesliga titles (one with Kaiserslautern, three with Bayern Munich), three German Cups (all with Bayern) and the Premier League with Chelsea, where he also won the FA Cup three times.

Peak of his powers

One facet of his career that the doggedly single-minded Ballack will not want to dwell on in his dotage is his distinct lack of European and international trophies. Yet how close he came, twice finishing runner-up in the Champions League (with Bayer Leverkusen and Chelsea) and earning silver with his country at the 2002 World Cup and Euro 2008. The World Cup of 2002 arguably saw him at the peak of his powers, carrying Germany almost single-handedly before being forced to miss the Final against Brazil because of suspension.

Capped 98 times by Germany, Ballack skippered the side from 2004 to 2010. However, his absence through injury from the 2010 World Cup in South Africa proved to be the beginning of the end of his national team odyssey, with *Bundestrainer* Joachim Low coming to the conclusion he could dispense with the services of Ballack. Typically, "*Der Capitano*" angrily retorted that he had not been treated with sufficient respect.

The pride, the passion and the prickly all wrapped up in one talented bundle.

Nick Bidwell

***Auf Wiedersehen*...Ballack salutes the Bayer Leverkusen supporters on his final home appearance for the club, against Hanover**

CAMEROON

New coach Akono woos back Eto'o

Back in the fold...Eto'o

After months of battling with his country's football federation, Samuel Eto'o agreed to reverse his decision to retire from international football and play once again for Cameroon.

Eto'o has been Cameroon's talisman over the past decade, but this summer his long-standing battles with officialdom in his home country came to a head.

The four-time African Footballer of the Year had refused to return to the national side, even though an eight-month suspension – handed to him by his own federation – had ended.

Eto'o bemoaned the amateurish set-up complaining: "The national team environment is still made up of amateurs and bad management which do not suit the requirements for high-level sport."

Coach Denis Lavagne persisted without Eto'o but was sacked following a surprise defeat by Cape Verde Islands in a Nations Cup qualifier in September after just three months in the job.

The appointment of Jean Paul Akono following the intervention of the country's sports minister appears to have convinced Eto'o to change his mind and he returned to the squad for the second leg of the game against Cape Verde.

"I am convinced that together, putting aside other interests for the country, we are capable, with God's assistance, of giving Cameroon football the panache, and shine of old," Eto'o said.

Mark Gleeson

David CONN

AT THE HEART OF THE GAME

After 23 years, justice for Hillsborough families may finally take its course

In the days after the extraordinary impact of the Hillsborough Independent Panel's report, which delivered the unanswerable truth about the disaster, there followed a strange swirl of competing emotions.

The national apology from the prime minister, David Cameron, to the bereaved families of the 96 Liverpool supporters who died on April 15, 1989, left no doubts. It had been a "double injustice", he said; first the disgraceful deaths of mostly young people at a football match, then the shameful "denigration" of the victims, for no greater cause than the South Yorkshire police seeking to avoid blame.

South Yorkshire police issued an apology and talked about sending their industrial-scale changing of officers' statements to the Independent Police Complaints Commission for investigation. An apology came from Sheffield Wednesday, whose appalling safety record in the 1980s was laid out in an indisputable report, substantially authored by professor Phil Scraton, of Queens University, Belfast, who has never let go of the Hillsborough injustices.

Quite suddenly, after 23 years of lies and an orchestrated disregarding of the facts, it is accepted that 96 people died at Hillsborough due to "multiple failures" by the club, police and others.

The families, finally vindicated, could talk convincingly of a new inquest and prosecutions of organisations and, possibly, individuals, culpable of criminal wrongdoing. Soon Norman Bettison, who had always denied the accusation made in parliament by Merseyside's Labour MP Maria Eagle – in 1998 – that he had been part of a South Yorkshire police "black propaganda unit" after Hillsborough, announced his retirement from policing.

After so much pain, so many years, so dreadful a struggle by ordinary loving families robbed of a life with their loved ones, justice for Hillsborough may take its course.

There was some cheer in that, yes. The family members were smiling; there was relief; there was even, said James Jones, the bishop of Liverpool, who chaired the panel's remarkable work, "euphoria".

But you could not talk about it as a happy day, because 96 people are still gone forever. Thousands more – there were 24,000 Liverpool supporters there that day – have had their lives marked by that horror. The city of Liverpool's support for the families was, in another denigration, sneered at, mostly by comfortable people who never spent their youth on places like the appalling Leppings Lane end at Hillsborough. Such brutalities, the pens and the disregard for safety, as the panel report chronicled, were constructed by football clubs for supporters they thought of too often as hooligans, but whose money they were always happy to take.

September 12, 2012, was a landmark day for the truth. The actual truth, not "The Truth" as notoriously misrepresented by *The Sun* when its then editor, Kelvin MacKenzie, reproduced the police lies defaming the supporters just four days after the 96 died. But the acceptance of the truth gave way to anger and frustration too.

How were the police allowed to evade that truth and cook up stories to blame the victims? Why was the truth of Lord Justice Taylor's report, just four months after the disaster, not accepted by the authorities?

> After 23 years of lies, it is accepted 96 people died at Hillsborough due to "multiple failures"

Now, the understanding of what happened must be ingrained in national consciousness. How the established truth about an event so horrific could be casually disregarded for 23 years, until politicians, led by Andy Burnham, found a process through which it would be accepted.

Among the horrors of Hillsborough was this: it all happened on colour television. Everybody could see that supporters were trying to help their fellows, while so many police stood around, bewildered. Yet when the false stories started, spread in the media, people actually believed them rather than what they saw with their own eyes.

That is truly disturbing, among the many layers of Hillsborough shame, which must never be allowed to happen again. WS

"Maybe he comes free. Or is the brother-in-law of the president"

Bordeaux coach Francis Gillot reacts with amazement at the news that Newcastle United have given manager Alan Pardew an eight-year contract

REPORTS we couldn't make up

1 A former Croatia Miss Sport finalist, Tihana Nemcic has become the first woman to coach a men's team in her homeland after taking charge of fifth division Viktorija Vojakovac.

The 24-year-old, who played for Dinamo Zagreb's women's team and Croatia's national side, is adamant her appointment is not a publicity stunt.

"If a woman and a man have the same professional qualifications for a coaching job, I see no reason why I should not get into male football," says the part-time model. "I am the head coach and I have full freedom to create and plan the team's tactics."

Breakthrough...Necic says her appointment is not a publicity stunt

2 Kakha Kaladze, the former Milan and Georgia defender, is set to be announced as the country's new deputy prime minister after the Georgian Dream coalition's shock victory in parliamentary polls.

Kaladze quit football earlier this year to campaign alongside Bidzina Ivanishvili, the billionaire tycoon who led the coalition that defeated the ruling party, led by previous president Mikheil Saakashvili. During the election campaign, Kaladze dismissed claims that some Georgian Dream politicians had links with organised crime bosses as "absurd".

He said: "I have nothing in common with the mafia, neither in the past nor now."

3 Dinamo Zagreb defender Domagoj Vida was hit with a €100,000 fine by his club for opening a can of beer on the team bus en route to the game against Vrsar. Dinamo coach Ante Cacic ordered Vida to leave the bus immediately and he was subsequently dropped from the game.

A statement on the club website read: "The Dinamo management has decided to punish Vida, a Croatia international with 14 caps, with a financial penalty of €100,000 for his behaviour."

4 Valerenga goalkeeper Lars Hirschfield was substituted immediately after the start of his club's league match with Honefoss.

He was suffering with an ankle injury and was not really fit to play, but was forced to start the match so as he could be replaced by Gudmund Taksal Kongshavn, thus allowing Kongshavn to play the following Tuesday for Valerenga's reserve side in their Norwegian second division relegation battle against Gjovik.

Had Kongshavn started against Honefoss he would have been ineligible, under Norwegian FA rules, to play against Gjovik. However, as he appeared as a substitute Valerenga had not technically broken any rule.

Valerenga went on to beat Honefoss 3-2 and Valerenga reserves won 1-0 against Gjovik.

5 Former Greece national coach Vassilis Daniil was set to become the oldest man in charge of a team in the Greek Super League when he was announced as caretaker boss of Xanthi following Marinos Ouzounidis' resignation.

However, the fates quickly turned against 74-year-old Daniil, who had not been at the helm of a professional side since February 1999. Portuguese midfielder Dani Ricardo bumped into him in training, knocking him to the ground and breaking his hip. While Daniil was undergoing surgery, Xanthi named Nikos Kostenoglou as their new coach.

6 It was the most shaming incident of Zinedine Zidane's career, but probably the most famous as well. And now his head-butt on Italy's Marco Materazzi in the 2006 World Cup Final has been immortalised in a bronze statue by Algerian sculptor Adel Abdesseme and erected outside the Pompidou Centre in Paris.

■ OBITUARIES

John BOND (1932-2012)
Former Norwich City and Manchester City manager who won the FA Cup in 1964 as a player with West Ham United.

Champions...Ramos receives the World Cup in 1962

Mauro RAMOS (1930-2012)
Centre-half who captained Brazil to victory in the 1962 World Cup, having been a non-playing squad member at the previous two finals.

Final scorer...Haller

Helmut HALLER (1939-2012)
Played in three World Cups for West Germany, opening the scoring in the 1966 Final against England. Collected 33 caps in total, scoring 13 goals, and won three league titles during his time with Bologna and Juventus in Italy, where he was voted player of the year in 1964.

Rafael LESMES (1926-2012)
The defender won five consecutive European Cups and four La Liga titles during his eight seasons with Real Madrid. Capped once by Spain, he also played for Real Valladolid.

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Paul GARDNER

THE WORLDWIDE VIEW

Intimidation, Tony Pulis-style, is symptom of a very English disease

It's difficult to take Stoke City manager Tony Pulis too seriously as he battles with his sport-identity crisis, wearing his baseball cap as he encourages his footballers to perform like rugby players.

Pulis' speciality is "survival" football, but I think "medieval" is a more accurate description. It is just dreadful stuff to watch. It's only a couple of years since Pulis managed to make his stock long-ball game even worse by adding the long throw to its banalities.

In over 20 years of coaching, Pulis has yet to win anything. Anyone who has watched his Stoke team at work lately will be perfectly happy to see that spell continue indefinitely. It is quite impossible to fathom what lurks in Pulis' mind as his preferred way of playing football. Whatever it is, it is light years removed from the "Beautiful Game".

Football a la Pulis features huge players. Sixteen of his 24-man first-team squad are over 6ft. At the back, Geoff Cameron, Robert Huth and Ryan Shawcross are all 6ft 3in. In midfield, Maurice Edu, Rory Delap, Dean Whitehead and Charlie Adam are all six-footers, while Steven N'Zonzi is 6ft 4in. Up front there are Kenwyne Jones (6ft 2in), Mamady Sidibe (6ft 4in) and the tallest of the lot, Peter Crouch, with his basketball stat of 6ft 7in.

Whatever may be Pulis' intentions in assembling this massive team, the inevitable consequence is that Stoke play a very physical game; an unpleasantly physical game.

This is where it is no longer possible to sustain the idea that Pulis is simply a bad joke. Shawcross, for a start, has a formidable record of sending opponents to hospital – including Arsenal's Aaron Ramsey with a double-fracture of his leg that kept him out of the game for nine months. Huth's "tackling" is usually clumsy – euphemistically speaking.

You could say that the essence of Stoke's play is hard tackling, but that is the visible part. What lies behind it is the real motivating force for Pulis and his side: physical intimidation. This is a Premier League team playing primitive, minor-league football.

Goals are sought by pumping high balls into the opponents' box and looking for knock downs – and the resulting action is every bit as inelegant as the terminology.

Pulis adds a crowning touch of insolence to his no-frills style as he tries to deflect attention from his own players' "rough-'em-up" tactics by alleging that his opponents are guilty of diving. His recent indictment of Liverpool's Luis Suarez conveniently ignored the battering that Suarez had suffered from Huth – which culminated in the German defender blatantly stomping on him.

But physical violence doesn't bother Pulis – at least, as long as it is his team who are dishing it out. Creative attacking skills – always at a premium with Stoke – apparently vex the heck out of Pulis. Hence his attack on Suarez, and on Chelsea's Oscar, also accused of diving. Pulis is looking for a Premier League that is safe for the crude fouling of Shawcross and Huth et al, but hostile to the subtle skills of Suarez and Oscar.

> Physical violence doesn't bother Pulis – as long as it is his team who are dishing it out. Creative skills apparently vex the heck out of him

This is all rather sad – but it ought to be a scandal. Deplorably, Pulis gets plenty of support from the English media, which takes delight in hammering Suarez but finds the crudities of the Stoke side acceptable. George Orwell leaps to my mind: "Sleeping the deep, deep sleep of England, from which I sometimes fear we shall never wake till we are jerked out of it by the roar of bombs."

Nothing so dramatic now. The soccer awakening, if there is ever to be one, will come simply from yet more abject failures at international level. WS

"We're in a hole. But it's only one unfortunate episode in a great history"

Rangers manager Ally McCoist tries to look on the bright side despite his club's demotion to the fourth tier in Scotland

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

IN

Israeli loan... Earnshaw

In at Palermo...Gasperini

EUROPE

In Italy's Serie A, **GIAN PIERO GASPERINI** took over from Giuseppe Sannino as coach of Palermo, former Crotone and Frosinone boss **EUGENIO CORINI** replaced Domenico Di Carlo in charge of Chievo, and **IVO PULGA** stepped up from his role as assistant to succeed Massimo Ficcadenti at Cagliari.

German **EWALD LIENEN** took charge of struggling Greek side AEK Athens, who were bottom of the table after sacking Vangelis Vlachos and failing to win any of their opening six league games.

Wales striker **ROBERT EARNSHAW** joined Israeli side Maccabi Tel Aviv on loan from Cardiff City until the end of the season.

BARAK BAKHAR replaced Gili Landau as Hapoel Kiryat Shmona coach on the eve of the Israeli club's Europa League game against Lyon of France. **YOSSI ABUKASIS** was appointed coach of Hapoel Tel Aviv, succeeding Nitzan Shirazi who stood down due to health issues.

After just two games of the new Cypriot season, **TONI SAVEVSKI**, who led Omonia to the league title in 2003, was reappointed coach, while Olympiakos Nicosia boss **NIKODIMOS PAPAVASILIOU** took over from former Scotland manager George Burley at Apollon.

Swansea City defender **ASHLEY WILLIAMS** replaced Arsenal midfielder Aaron Ramsey as captain of Wales.

Welcome...Blokhin (right) is welcomed by Dynamo Kiev president Igor Surkis

Blokhin accepts Dynamo challenge

Ukraine coach **Oleg Blokhin** took charge of Dynamo Kiev following the dismissal of Yuri Semin after a run of four defeats in five games, including a 4-1 loss to Paris Saint-Germain in the club's opening Champions League group game. Ukraine have yet to announce Blokhin's successor.

SOUTH AMERICA

Replacing Scolari...Kleina

Eight-time Brazilian champions Palmeiras hired Ponte Preta coach **GILSON KLEINA** to replace 2002 World Cup-winning boss Luiz Felipe Scolari, who left by mutual consent with the club second from bottom.

AFRICA

FAR Rabat boss **RACHID TAOUSSI** took charge of Morocco's national side, replacing the sacked **ERIC GERETS** who was later appointed coach of Qatari champions Lekhwiya.

Morocco reins...Taoussi

Defending champions Orlando Pirates replaced coach Augusto Palacios with **ROGER DE SA** after just three games of the new South African season.

Kenya Premier League side Sofapaka appointed Englishman **STEWART HALL** as their new coach.

ASIA

Australia striker **ALEX BROSQUE** joined defending UAE champions Al Ain from Shimizu S-Pulse of Japan.

Polish coach **MACIEJ SKORZA** replaced Alan Geiger in charge of Al Ettifaq. The Swiss was sacked after a poor start to the domestic season left the Saudi Arabian side just above the relegation zone with one win from their first six games.

Gulf post...Skorza

"In Palermo, landlords ask for six-months payment in advance from coaches because they all know the way [owner Maurizio] Zamparini works"

Giuseppe Sannino reflects on his sacking as Palermo coach

Appointments, sackings and loans

EUROPE

Chelsea centre-half **JOHN TERRY** stepped down from international football on the eve of receiving a four-game ban from the Football Association after being found guilty of misconduct. The former England captain, who won 78 caps, was charged despite being cleared in court of an incident in which he was accused of racially abusing Queens Park Rangers defender Anton Ferdinand. Terry claimed the FA hearing had made his position with England "untenable".

Sporting Lisbon sacked coach **RICARDO SA PINTO** after the Portuguese club lost 3-0 to Videoton of Hungary in the Europa League.

Pana exit...Katsouranis

Greece midfielder **KOSTAS KATSOURANIS** parted company with Panathinaikos after his contract was terminated by mutual consent.

Croatia wingback **DANIJEL PRANJIC** quit international football after coach Igor Stimac left him out of the squad for October's World Cup qualifiers against Wales and Macedonia.

Calling it a day...Guti

Former Real Madrid and Spain midfielder **GUTI** announced his retirement at the age of 35. He had been without a club since leaving Turkish side Besiktas in November last year.

Everton goalkeeper **JAN MUCHA**, Slovakia's first choice during the 2010 World Cup and who won 35 caps, has announced his international retirement.

SARGIS HOVSEPYAN, Armenia's most-capped player, has retired. The 39-year-old centre-back won his 131st cap in the 1-0 World Cup qualifying loss to Bulgaria in September.

Most capped...Hovsepyan

Werder Bremen's 32-year-old midfielder **TIM BOROWSKI**, who won 33 caps for Germany, announced his retirement after a long battle with an ankle injury. He made a total of 236 Bundesliga appearances during a playing career spent almost entirely with Bremen, bar one season at Bayern Munich.

Donegal Celtic manager **STEPHEN SMALL** resigned after the Northern Ireland Premiership club failed to win any of their opening nine league games.

CONCACAF

Municipal sacked coach **JAVIER DELGADO** after a 3-0 loss to Monterrey of Mexico eliminated the Guatemalan club from the CONCACAF Champions League.

AFRICA

Belgian **TOM SAINTFIET** – who led Tanzanian side Young Africans to the East and Central African club title, the Cecafa Cup, in July – was sacked after two league games.

ASIA

Qatari club Al Arabi sacked French coach **PIERRE LECHANTRE** the day after a goalless draw with Al Gharafa.

Shown the door...Lechantre

OUT

Injury woe... Borowski (right)

Pienaar announces international retirement

Everton midfielder **Steven Pienaar**, who succeeded Aaron Mokoena as South Africa captain after the 2010 World Cup, quit international football saying he could no longer cope with the physical demands of playing for both his club and country.

Stress and strain...Pienaar cannot juggle club and country commitments

Brian GLANVILLE

THE VOICE OF FOOTBALL

Ill feeling...Ferdinand refuses to shake Terry's hand before a Premier League game between QPR and Chelsea

Terry: a horrid, complex and contradictory affair

All the excoriating condemnation hurled at John Terry may well have been justified, but there is still a worrying and debatable aspect to the whole affair. It makes one believe more than ever the FA severely undermined their own moral, if not legal position, by wrongly and weakly agreeing to the request – not, please note, the command – of the Metropolitan Police to have first bite at the case.

Which meant, as we all know too well now, that it would be held in the Westminster Magistrates' Court, where the burden of proof is far more stringent and demanding than it would be at an FA tribunal.

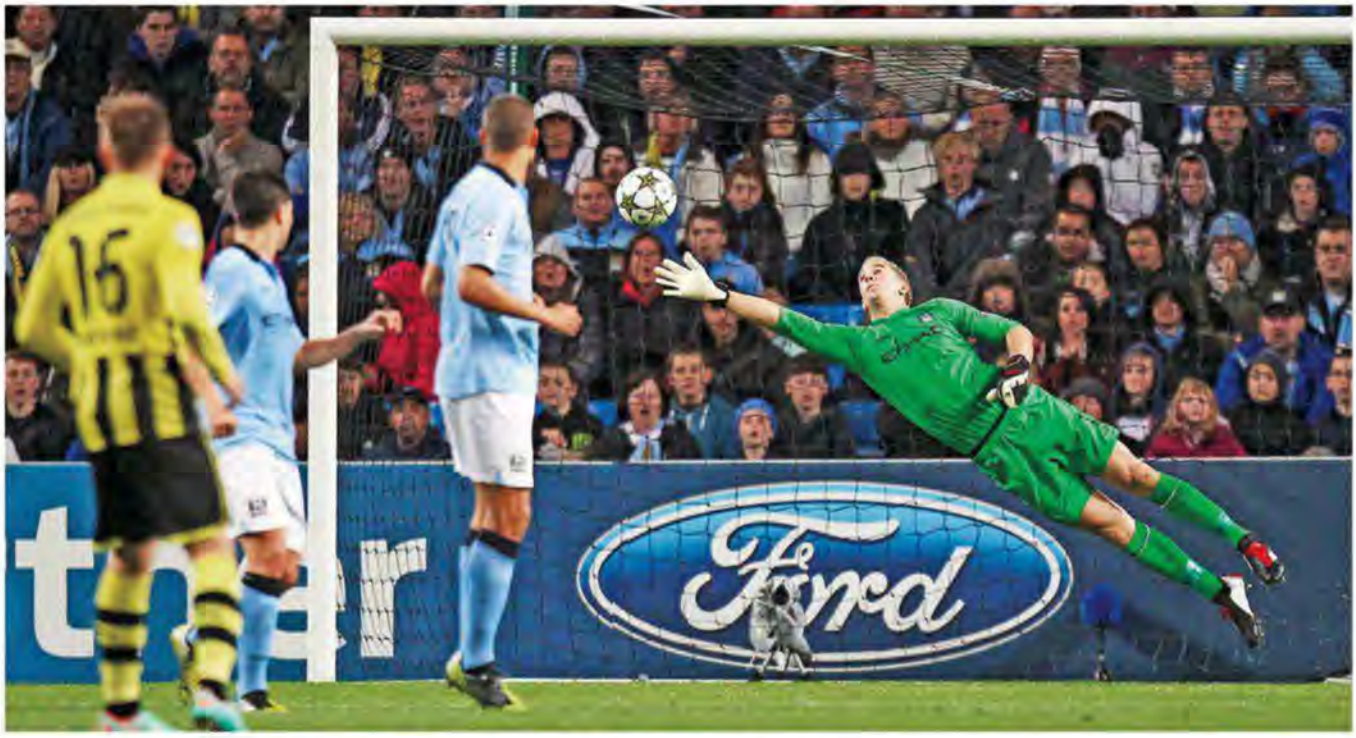
Half-baked attempts have indeed been made by the FA to demonstrate that the apparent conflict of interest does not exist. But to those of us unconvinced by such apparent casuistry, it seems a distinction without a difference.

True, what transpired and ended in such anticlimax in the magistrates' court seemed somewhat hard to credit. Terry's own convoluted evidence, brushed aside by the FA commission, was that he was, with his outburst of obscenities and seeming racism, merely parodying what Anton Ferdinand himself had accused him of. But once Terry had been cleared, acquitted or whatever you want to call it by a seemingly puzzled magistrate, that should arguably have been the end of it. The FA had their chance and missed it.

By bringing in the verdict that they did they seemed to neglect their own rules. It was fairly recently that the burden of proof was diminished, while there exists a clause which seemingly prevents the FA from taking action after a decision has been taken in a court of law – only for such a clause to be dubiously mitigated by a further clause which enacts that in certain special circumstances the FA can proceed with action. Not surprising that the words "double jeopardy" have been heard. If Terry intends to appeal, he seems notionally to have a case.

In the meantime, the commission has covered him with obloquy, which may or may not be well deserved, but seems quite irreconcilable with the mitigating verdict used in the Westminster trial. That Terry is a recidivist, that his career,

> If John Terry is, at the least, a non-racist liar, as the commission suggests, why did the magistrates' court acquit him?



City saver...Hart keeps his side in the Champions League clash with Borussia Dortmund

how ever successful and impressive on the field, whatever his absurd excess in Barcelona, is blemished by so many crass episodes, is beyond doubt. After the commission's report, it looks darker than ever. Yet the FA are surely hoist with their own petard when the second key finding of their report states that an internal briefing document prepared for FA chairman David Bernstein and general secretary Alex Horne reveals "it would be expected/anticipated the FA decision will reach the same conclusion as the courts". So why did it not?

There is also the bizarre paradox that despite finding Terry guilty of using obscene racist insults, it was accepted that he was not a racist. I have no idea of whether he is or not, but it would have been interesting to know just how the commission reached such a conclusion, not least as they found his explanation "improbable, implausible and contrived".

In the meantime, Ashley Cole has embroiled himself in his attempts to help Terry, though what business was it of Alan Shearer to declare Cole should be dropped from the England team? Nor can one forget that, shortly before the 1998 World Cup, Shearer, playing for Newcastle United, was impugned for spinning round in a semicircle near the touchline to plant a boot in the face of an opponent. A spineless FA body exculpated him on the farcical grounds that he was merely trying to disentangle himself, leaving him free to play in France in the World Cup. Let him who is without guilt cast the first stone...

Altogether a horrid, complex and contradictory affair, and whatever Terry's trespasses past and present, I am sorry he is giving up in an England team which still seriously needs him. As for racism, there is, thank goodness, now no comparison with what happens so deplorably in so many other countries, not least in Russia, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Spain and sometimes in Italy where, not long ago, the Juventus fans would chorus: "If you jump up and down, Balotelli will die!" Earlier this season neo-fascist fans of Lazio distinguished themselves at White Hart Lane by abusing two black Tottenham Hotspur players.

Had the FA exercised its undoubted right to be the first to put John Terry on trial, there would be none of the confusion and controversy which exists today. The old expression, give a dog a bad name and hang him, seems worryingly relevant. If John Terry, as the commission suggests, is at least a non-racist liar, why did the Westminster court discharge him?

English clubs embarrass themselves in Europe

How good is the Premier League? Time and again we are told it is the best in Europe; certainly it appears overall to be the richest. Yet there is surely an embarrassing disparity with what goes on nationally with its leading clubs and what goes on in Europe.

Manchester City are an all too obvious case. They are capable, with their array of hugely expensive stars, to sweep aside opposition in the Premier League – though not always even there – but in the Champions League things have gone so wrong they seem doomed not even to qualify for the knockout stages. The 3-2 defeat away to Real Madrid greatly flattered them and only Joe Hart kept them in the game before half-time. Against Borussia Dortmund, his series of remarkable saves allowed them to survive and even equalise from a dubious spot-kick at the death.

I'm still not convinced by Roberto Mancini and his choices in Europe: at Bayern Munich last year, when he expensively put in Kolo Toure, and at Real, when Maicon was suddenly plunged into the defence.

> Things have gone so wrong for City in the Champions League they seem doomed not even to qualify for the knockout stage

The new adventurous Chelsea, after dancing to the piper's tune attempting a more adventurous style to please Roman Abramovich, foundered badly against Atletico Madrid in the European Super Cup and to the ire of their owner lost a two-goal lead at home to Juventus.

Manchester United can now pair Wayne Rooney and Robin Van Persie, but they looked vulnerable at home to Galatasaray and should have won more easily in Cluj.

Arsenal have bought shrewdly in the wake of Van Persie's departure, yet when I saw them meet Olympiakos at home, I thought the 3-1 score was extremely flattering. The goal Arsenal's centre-backs carelessly gave away was abysmal. They need Per Mertesacker there without doubt. WS

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WorldSoccer AWARDS

From Rossi to Messi...30 years at the top

***World Soccer* celebrates the 30th anniversary of football's longest-running global awards**

This year we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the World Soccer Awards. The first World Player of the Year award was made in 1982, along with prizes for the World Manager and World Team of the year. The World Player award is now the longest-running award of its kind in the world game. FIFA's award, which has now been merged with *France Football*'s Ballon d'Or, was first given out in 1990.

Paolo Rossi was the first winner of *World Soccer*'s World Player award in 1982, and he has since been succeeded by an illustrious list of the biggest names in the world game.

Last year Lionel Messi won the award for a second time, having previously triumphed in 2009, and he is now bidding to become only the second man to collect three World Players titles, after Ronaldo (1996, 1997 and 2002). Fellow two-time winners are

All the previous winners in our annual awards...

1982...Paolo Rossi

1983...Zico

1984...Michel Platini

1985...Michel Platini

1986...Diego Maradona

1987...Ruud Gullit

ANY PLAYER...ANY MANAGER...ANY TEAM

Your chance to pick the winners in our annual awards

Michel Platini (1984 and 1985), Ruud Gullit (1987 and 1989), Marco Van Basten (1988 and 1992) and Ronaldinho (2004 and 2005).

Surprisingly, Diego Maradona only won the World Player award once, in 1986, following Argentina's World Cup triumph, while Zinedine Zidane won in 1998 but not in 2000, the year of France's European Championship triumph. Instead Luis Figo, who became the world's most expensive player that summer, claimed the top spot.

In World Cup years, the winner has always been a member of the victorious side – with the exception of 1994, when Italy's Paolo Maldini, a runner-up to Brazil at USA 94, became the first defender to win the award.

Over three decades, the World Player award has reflected the changing nature of football. Thirteen of the first 14 winners were based in Italy, but an Italian-based player has not won since Kaka in 2007

Cristiano Ronaldo was the first player from the Premier League to win, in 2008, when still playing for Manchester United. The last three winners – Messi in 2009 and 2011, Xavi in 2010 – have all played in Spain for Barcelona.

Michael Owen, a winner while with Real Madrid in 2001, is the only Englishman to have won the award, which has been dominated by Europeans.

South Americans have won the award 11 times out of 30. No African or Asian has ever claimed the award.

Alex Ferguson has won the Manager award a record four times, ahead of Jose Mourinho (three times) and Pep Guardiola (twice).

Michel Platini is the only person to receive both the Player award (1984 and 1985) and the Manager award (1991).

Votes are cast by readers from around the world, but this year we are announcing a major change to the voting process.

Over the forthcoming pages, we have highlighted the shortlisted candidates for the awards, while the voting process is outlined on page 28.

Triple winner...Ronaldo

World Cup year...Maradona

Player and manager...Platini

Twice...Ronaldinho

Four-year gap...Van Basten

1988...Marco Van Basten

1989...Ruud Gullit

1990...Lothar Matthaus

1991...Jean-Pierre Papin

1992...Marco Van Basten

1993...Roberto Baggio

ANY PLAYER...

Your chance to pick the winner

World Player of 2012 The shortlist

From Drogba to Xavi, the 10 contenders

Didier Drogba

Chelsea/Shanghai Shenhua & Ivory Coast
Scorer of the equalising goal and winning penalty in the Champions League Final.

Radamel Falcao

Atletico Madrid & Colombia
Hero of the Europa League Final for the second year running.

Eden Hazard

Lille/Chelsea & Belgium
Another great season in the Belgian league before a high-profile move to Stamford Bridge.

Andres Iniesta

Barcelona & Spain
Brilliant for Euro winners Spain, he won UEFA's award for the Best European Player of 2012.

Lionel Messi

Barcelona & Argentina
A phenomenal scoring record last season, with 73 goals in 60 club appearances, winning the ESM Golden Shoe.

Neymar

Santos & Brazil
The youngster continued to wow crowds in Brazil and is the central figure for the national team with 2014 on the horizon.

Andrea Pirlo

Juventus & Italy
Discarded by Milan but proved he is still a brilliant orchestrator for club and country.

Cristiano Ronaldo

Real Madrid & Portugal
His goals fired his club to the Spanish league title for the first time in four years.

Yaya Toure

Manchester City & Ivory Coast
The driving force in his club's Premier League title success.

Xavi

Barcelona & Spain
Another brilliant year for the magical midfielder who was *World Soccer's* 2010 World Player.

All the previous winners in our annual awards...

1994...Paolo Maldini

1995...Gianluca Vialli

1996...Ronaldo

1997...Ronaldo

1998...Zinedine Zidane

1999...Rivaldo

ANY MANAGER...

Your chance to pick the winner

World Manager of 2012 The shortlist

From Bielsa to Tite, the 10 contenders

Marcelo Bielsa

Athletic Bilbao
"*El Loco*" had a dramatic effect in his first season with Bilbao, reaching the Spanish Cup and Europa League Finals.

Vicente Del Bosque

Spain
Low-key but highly effective in sustaining Spain's run of success, winning the European Championship to add to the 2010 World Cup.

Roberto Di Matteo

Chelsea
Brought in as a stopgap replacement for Andre Villas-Boas, his safety-first tactics secured Chelsea their first Champions League.

Rene Girard

Montpellier
The former French federation youth coach steered the Ligue 1 outsiders to a surprise French title success.

Jurgen Klopp

Borussia Dortmund
His young side claimed a second successive Bundesliga title with more vibrant, attacking football.

Jose Mourinho

Real Madrid
"The Special One" oversaw his club's record-breaking, title-winning season in the Spanish league.

Herve Renard

Zambia
The little-known Frenchman guided the unfancied Zambians to victory in the African Nations Cup.

Diego Simeone

Atletico Madrid
The former Atletico midfielder returned to the club as coach and within months was celebrating Europa League success.

Luis Tena

Mexico under-23s
A key figure in his federation's coaching set-up, he guided Mexico to Olympic gold-medal success at London 2012.

Tite

Corinthians
The much-travelled Brazilian took Corinthians to their first-ever success in the Libertadores Cup.

2000...Luis Figo

2001...Michael Owen

2002...Ronaldo

2003...Pavel Nedved

2004...Ronaldinho

2005...Ronaldinho

ANY TEAM...

Your chance to pick the winner

World Team of 2012 The shortlist

From Atletico Madrid to Zambia, the 10 contenders

Atletico Madrid

Won their second Europa League title in three years after victory in the all-Spanish Final.

Bor Dortmund

The Ruhr side confirmed their status as Germany's dominant club with a domestic double.

Chelsea

They may not have been pretty, but exciting victories over Napoli, Barcelona and Bayern Munich ensured a first Champions League success.

Corinthians

The Brazilians became South American club champions for the first time with victory in the Libertadores Cup.

Juventus

Italy's most successful club returned to the summit of Serie A following an undefeated league season.

Mexico

Beat favourites Brazil in the London Olympic 2012 Final to continue their impressive run of form at youth and under-23 level.

Montpellier

The outsiders saw off the challenge of big-spending Paris Saint-Germain to win a first French league title.

Spain

Hailed as one of the greatest teams of all time following their Euro 2012 victory – their third successive tournament win.

Universidad

The Chileans won the Sudamericana Cup with some thrilling, attacking football.

Zambia

Defied the odds and beat favourites Senegal, Ghana and Ivory Coast to win the African Nations Cup – 20 years after the national squad was wiped out in a plane crash.

All the previous winners in our annual awards...

2006...Fabio Cannavaro

2007...Kaka

2008...Cristiano Ronaldo

2009...Lionel Messi

2010...Xavi

2011...Lionel Messi

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Make your vote count

For 30 years, *World Soccer* readers have decided the winners of our annual poll. This year is no different. Please select your World Player, Manager and Team of the Year then vote using the coupon below. Alternatively, you can register your vote via our website, worldsoccer.com, or via a mobile phone, using the QR code below.

This year we will also be asking a panel of journalists, pundits and *World Soccer* correspondents to contribute their votes – as well as select a World XI, by position, from the past year.

The results will be revealed in our January 2012 edition, published in mid-December.

Please vote using the coupon (or a photocopy) below and post to:

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Double-winner...last year's Manager of the Year, Pep Guardiola, who was coach of the Team of the Year, Barcelona

To vote, please cut out the coupon below. Photocopies are also acceptable

2012 WORLD SOCCER AWARDS: MY VOTES

World Player of the Year _____

_____

World Manager of the Year _____

_____

World Team of the Year _____

_____

My name _____

_____

My address _____

_____

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Email address _____

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Dispatches

Exclusive reports from our worldwide network of correspondents

P30

SPAIN
Cristiano Ronaldo and Real Madrid match Lionel Messi and Barcelona in the *clasico*.

P32

AUSTRALIA
The A-League season kicks off with Alessandro Del Piero as its biggest attraction yet.

P33

GERMANY
The return of Rafael Van der Vaart has got Hamburg fans dreaming of glory once more.

P34

COLOMBIA
The club owner who is making a stand against the drug barons who run the game.

P37

RUSSIA
Big-money foreign signings have upset several influential local players at Zenit.

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SWITZERLAND
Swiss internationals who are born of immigrant parents find themselves in a no-win situation.

P42

BRAZIL
Dutch veteran Clarence Seedorf shows his class as Botafogo aim for Libertadores qualification.

P44

TURKEY
Fenerbahce's Alex has a statue unveiled in his honour – and then has his contract cancelled.

P40 **HOLLAND**
Vitesse and Twente are the Eredivisie's early season pacemakers.

P45 **TAHITI**
The Pacific Ocean minnows are getting ready for the 2013 Confederations Cup.

SPAIN

SID LOWE
in Barcelona

Rivalry to end all rivalries

Honours even between Messi and Ronaldo after a memorable *clasico*

When the dust settled on the latest *clasico*, Barcelona were still eight points clear of Real Madrid. And yet there was concern amid the cheering. The conclusion that most observers reached after the game was that the gap between the two had closed and the league title race had come alive once more. "A draw at home is never a good result," admitted Xavi after the 2-2 draw at Camp Nou.

And what a fascinating clasico, The focus was on the usual suspects, with Cristiano Ronaldo getting Madrid's opening goal, only for Lionel Messi to equalise. Messi then put Barca in front, only for Ronaldo to respond.

Ronaldo's first came from a neat passing movement involving every one of Madrid's outfield players except Pepe. Eventually, Karim Benzema worked the ball into Ronaldo's path and he hit it hard and low past Victor Valdes. Messi equalised from six yards after a mistake from Pepe. He then put the home side in front with a stunning 25-yard free-kick, before Ronaldo dashed through the middle to reach Mesut Ozil's pass and beat Valdes once more.

Sometimes, it can feel like Messi and Ronaldo are the only players in Spain. Real Madrid and Barcelona may be the biggest clubs in the world, with histories that go back over 110 years and more trophies than anyone else, but these days their rivalry is often reduced to the main protagonists: men who do not just represent their clubs but embody them. There is something almost inseparable about them and it often feels like you cannot even mention Messi without someone saying: "What about Ronaldo?"

At times, the debate is forced; at others it is outright false. But this time it really was about them. And on a night when the *clasico* was billed as the game that might decide the World Player of the Year award, as well as the title race, they matched each other stride for stride.

Deeper than usual

One of the notable characteristics of recent *clasicos* has been that Messi seems to play much deeper than usual. Barcelona coach Tito Vilanova put this down to the Argentinian's interpretation of matches and the ability to take decisions and seek solutions, rather than a preconceived plan.

"Not only is Leo a good player, he is a very intelligent one," explained Vilanova. "He looks for where the space is. Higher up the pitch it is harder because he has the defenders right there. But if he drops deeper and takes a centre-back with him then it has the advantage of creating space for others."

In truth, that rarely happened during this game. What did happen was that Messi once again scored goals – as did Ronaldo. By scoring his 100th La Liga goal at Camp Nou, Messi drew to within one *clasico* goal of Alfredo Di Stefano's all-time record of 18, while Ronaldo scored in his sixth consecutive *clasico*, the first player to do so.

A Barcelona victory would have given them an 11-point lead over Real Madrid. Even as early in the season as this it was hard to avoid the conclusion that had they won the *clasico* they would have been virtual champions, so it was understandable that Madrid should feel revived by the result. But eight points remains a significant lead and, in Spain, where the top two now routinely rack up over 90 points, it could prove insurmountable. No wonder the Catalan dailies were quick to point out the maths.

Madrid had also failed to cut the deficit to five points against a Barcelona side that, despite a perfect start to the

Star...Messi mesmerises Pepe (left) and Xabi Alonso

THREE-YEAR GOAL RECORD OF MESSI, RONALDO...& SPAIN'S THIRD BEST TEAM

Goals scored in La Liga since the start of the 2009-10 season, up to and including 10.10.12

> "Barcelona used to be up there and we were down here. Now they are up there and so are we" Jose Mourinho

season with six wins from six, is some way from its best. This was a Barca side without Gerard Pique and Carles Puyol; one which had a left-back, Adriano, playing in the middle alongside Javier Mascherano, a converted midfielder. They also lost Dani Alves in the first half with a hamstring injury in his left leg. Failure to take all three points was, some said, an opportunity missed by Real. Yet there were still reasons for optimism in Madrid.

Although there were some impressive performances for Barcelona, especially from Sergio Busquets, there was also cause for concern.

Six on the trot... Ronaldo

Barca have changed. Whether coincidence or trend, time will tell, but they did not pressure high up the pitch – which was one of the central tenets of Pep Guardiola's philosophy – and their circulation of the ball lacked the normal pace and precision. They are still struggling to incorporate Cesc Fabregas, while Alexis Sanchez's form has dipped – although when he came on in the *clasico* he played well – and David Villa warmed up but never came on.

Defensive worries

Defensively Barcelona also have worries. Alex Song, who they had bought as a two-in-one in the summer, had played at centre-back in the previous game but looked out of place – so much so that Vilanova did not risk him against Madrid. And while Adriano performed admirably and was quick across the ground, Barca's weaknesses at centre-back are plain to see.

In previous seasons, an eight-point lead would have looked insurmountable: Barcelona simply would not drop enough points to allow Madrid to close the gap. But with this Barca, many in Madrid believe that there really is a chance they will do so this season. The signs of vulnerability were there even before the *clasico* as they had already been forced to come from behind four times this season. A title has been won and the fear has gone.

"Barcelona used to be up there and we were down here," Jose Mourinho said, signalling with his hands. "Now they are up there and so are we." **WS**

LES MURRAY
in Sydney

Sydney's star attraction

Del Piero heads new wave of A-League imports

Having made his debut in 1993, Alessandro Del Piero was once hailed as the natural successor to the iconic Roberto Baggio at Juventus. Nineteen years and 513 league games later, he is in Australia playing for Sydney.

That, at first glance, might appear to have negative connotations for Del Piero. But it sure hasn't for his new club or, indeed, the entire A-League. Australian fans, along with the whole local football industry, are still pinching themselves to see if it's real that a player of such broad fame and admiration, not to mention match-winning ability, has actually been wooed down under.

Of course Del Piero is not the first marquee name to grace the A-League since it kicked off in 2005. Former Manchester United striker Dwight Yorke, ex-Liverpool hero Robbie Fowler and Brazil's 2002 World Cup winner Juninho have all been and gone. But Del Piero is the biggest name to join the league and he's a unique signing in other ways too. Unlike Yorke, Fowler and Juninho, who had basically run out of other career options, the 37-year-old Italian had a number of offers on the table, with Olympiakos and Liverpool, not to mention the usual petro-rich suspects in the Middle East, all chasing his signature.

As for why he chose Australia, well it would seem it was the destination itself.

Whether it was Del Piero's own instinct or the persuasive powers of Sydney's officials is hard to know, but the Italian became convinced that the move had a missionary element to it that was worth taking up. The suggestion that his very presence could lift football in Australia to new levels of broad acceptability appealed to him.

> The suggestion that his very presence could lift Australian football to new levels appealed to Del Piero

Unprecedented response

And the notion is working. The level of media coverage and positive public response to his signing has been unprecedented in a country not used to imparting adulation on footballers.

Season-ticket sales, sponsorship interest and merchandising orders all underwent an upward spurt never before experienced in the A-League, suggesting that the £1.3million annual salary Del Piero will get on his two-year deal will be more than recouped by the club. Del Piero no10 replica shirts in Sydney's sky-blue colours are already on sale in Italy – which is symptomatic of the marketing opportunity his move is representing in lifting the A-League's brand overseas.

The significance of the signing was not lost on other A-League clubs, nor on other high-profile European players looking for a late flurry in their careers. Days after Del Piero arrived to a tumultuous welcome at Sydney airport, former England striker Emile Heskey agreed to join Newcastle Jets. The Australian media was then awash with reports that former Germany captain Michael Ballack was about to join Western Sydney Wanderers, although the A-League newcomers eventually settled on Japan midfielder Shinji Ono.

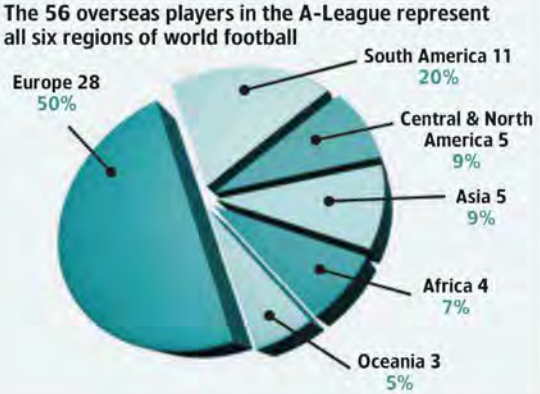
What the Del Piero deal has done is lift the status and credibility of the A-League, both in Australian eyes and internationally. While this was once the domain of other young, emerging leagues, such as MLS or the J.League, it seems Australia is now catching up.

Signing big-name players from abroad is one thing; the fact that Del Piero actually chose Australia above other destinations is quite another. It is something the game down under has never experienced before. **WS**

Looks familiar...Del Piero lines up alongside his new Sydney team-mates at the club's supporters day

A-LEAGUE IMPORTS 2012-13

The 56 overseas players in the A-League represent all six regions of world football



NICK BIDWELL
in Munich

Hamburg hopes high again

Van der Vaart's return inspires Bundesliga's fallen giants

Hamburg's glitzy 125th anniversary gala in September was a chance to revisit the club's numerous achievements – six German league titles, ever-present Bundesliga status, and European success in the 1977 Cup-winners Cup and 1983 Champions Cup – and pay tribute to such great servants as Uwe Seeler, Willi Schulz, Manfred Kaltz, Felix Magath, Kevin Keegan and Horst Hrubesch.

Yet as slick as the show was, retrospectives don't pay today's rent, and even the club's most fanatical followers would have to admit to feeling short-changed right now.

Frustrated by 25 years without a trophy – the last silverware being the 1987 German Cup – the parlous state of the club's finances, with debts in the region of £80million, coupled with an uncanny flair for bad decision-making, hardly inspires confidence for the future.

Fifteenth in last season's Bundesliga, their worst-ever top-flight performance, Hamburg might have done just enough to avoid the drop a few months ago, but the supporters expect much, much more.

When they began the current campaign with three consecutive league losses to Nuremberg, Werder Bremen and Eintracht Frankfurt, together with a first-round German Cup elimination at the hands of third division Karlsruher, recriminations once more filled the air, with director of sport Frank Arnesen coming under severe fire for his lack of work in the transfer market.

Faced with the twin spectre of another relegation battle and a league inquiry into their fitness to hold a professional licence, Hamburg's chiefs might easily have lapsed into rabbit-in-the-headlights mode, frozen to the spot in fear.

However, chairman Carl-Edgar Jarchow and his committee are clearly determined to fight until the last – and they proved it late in August with the decision to re-sign Dutch playmaker Rafael Van der Vaart four years after he left to pursue a career with Real Madrid and Tottenham Hotspur.

Turn for the better

The return of Van der Vaart, a Hamburg hero from 2005 to 2008, changed the mood at the Imtech Arena from funereal to euphoric in one fell swoop. And his signing could turn out to be the day the club's fortunes at last took a distinct turn for the better.

Provided he stays fit, the 29-year-old's class and creativity should make the side an infinitely more incisive attacking force.

> Hamburg underlined their new-found boldness with a shock win over champions Borussia Dortmund

With Van der Vaart at the controls, Hamburg have looked twice the side they were, and they underlined their new-found boldness, resolve and unity with an impressive 3-2 home win over champions Borussia Dortmund, for whom it was their first defeat in 31 Bundesliga games. The visitors' first league loss for 369 days fell five days short of the league's all-time record – set by Hamburg themselves when they survived 36 matches without losing between 1982 and 1983.

How did the heavily indebted Hamburg afford the £10.5m they spent on Van der Vaart? Well, the simple answer is they didn't have to.

Hamburg have benefitted from a loan from wealthy businessman and club fan Klaus-Michael Kuhne. While some may see this as an unfair move when the majority of top-flight clubs do their utmost to balance the books, who can really blame Hamburg for calling a financial substitute off the bench with the stakes so high?

One of the most vociferous opponents of Kuhne's largesse was Eintracht Frankfurt supremo Heribert Bruchhagen, a man who really should be at peace with the world after his promoted team won five of their first six league games and drew the other 3-3 with Dortmund.

Not a bad start for a club which largely recruited in the second tier this summer and have a side that is devoid of any big-name figures. WS

Many happy returns...Van der Vaart (right) is hugged by team-mate Son Heung-min after scoring against Monchengladbach

CARL WORSWICK
in Bogota

Cleaning up the dark past

Millonarios president Gaitan's offer to return "drug money" titles has caused a national furore

An octogenarian shifts uneasily in the stands. With nervous reluctance, his back arched and face bowed, he stretches out a hand to acknowledge the fawning crowds. The cameras pan in and pan out.

Sitting centre stage is 86-year-old Alfredo Di Stefano, one of the game's all-time greats. The occasion is this year's Santiago Bernabeu trophy game between two of the Argentinian's former teams, Real Madrid and Colombian side Millonarios.

For once, talk at the Bernabeu is not of Cristiano Ronaldo or even Jose Mourinho. The man they called "The Blond Arrow", now grey and frail, is the celebrated showpiece. At least, that was the idea. However, on the eve of the game, Millonarios president Felipe Gaitan dramatically changed the script.

In a radio interview the 46-year-old economist dropped a bombshell that would rock the foundations of Colombian football and shift focus away from Di Stefano. "Mr Gaitan," the *W Radio* interviewer began. "Is it true what I heard last night that Millonarios are considering returning two league titles won in the 1980s because of the influence of drug money?"

Forget it...Millonarios fans show their opposition to Gaitan's proposal

Gaitan responded cautiously but with frank admission, stating: "We all know the unfortunate past of Colombian football. This idea is very preliminary and it lacks a lot of discussion, but, in reality, yes, the proposal is on the table."

Within hours a storm erupted. It pitched furious former players, coaches and fans against the government, ex-referees and those purportedly acting in favour of cleaning Colombian football's name.

> "It's a lack of respect. Just what is Gaitan imagining or thinking with this?"
> Ex-Millonarios star Alberto Gamero

"It's a lack of respect," raged ex-Millonarios star Alberto Gamero, who is now coach of Colombian top-flight club Boyaca Chico. "Just what is Gaitan imagining or thinking with this?"

Luis "Chiqui" Garcia, the man who was in charge of those tainted titles of 1987 and 1988, went further, saying: "These type of people just want to give themselves importance; a nobody who is appointed and earns 40million pesos a month to go out daubing and smearing people. He [Gaitan] is attacking players, coaches and managers that were involved in winning titles. He hasn't ever even kicked a ball."

While Gaitan's opponents were fierce and numerous, his idea also received important support. Chief among those was Colombia's interior minister, Fernando Carrillo Florez, who offered government backing and said: "What the Millonarios board is doing is recognising the black page that Colombian football in this era was living. They might lose two stars from their shield, but then they would win two for dignity."

For perhaps the first time in football history, a club was voluntarily relinquishing its past successes.

Awash with drug money

That Colombian football in the 1980s and 90s was awash with drug money is no secret. But Gaitan's admission opened a floodgate of comment over what had previously been an off-topic debate.

Even a clumsy and half-hearted government investigation from 1995 that found three clubs – Millonarios, Atletico Nacional and America – guilty of links to the mafia underworld of the drug cartels, was quickly swept under the carpet.

Colombian football's murky involvement in drugs began in the late 1970s with the cocaine surge that swept the United States. Right from the off, the wild coca fields of Colombia's frontier satisfied America's cocaine demands.

As unscrupulous players began jostling for power, Colombian clubs waited like sitting ducks. They were drowning in debt, starved of success and ▸

FROM THE ARCHIVES: ESCOBAR'S MURDER

MURDER OF A FAVOURITE IS LATEST COLOMBIAN OUTRAGE

WORLD SOCCER

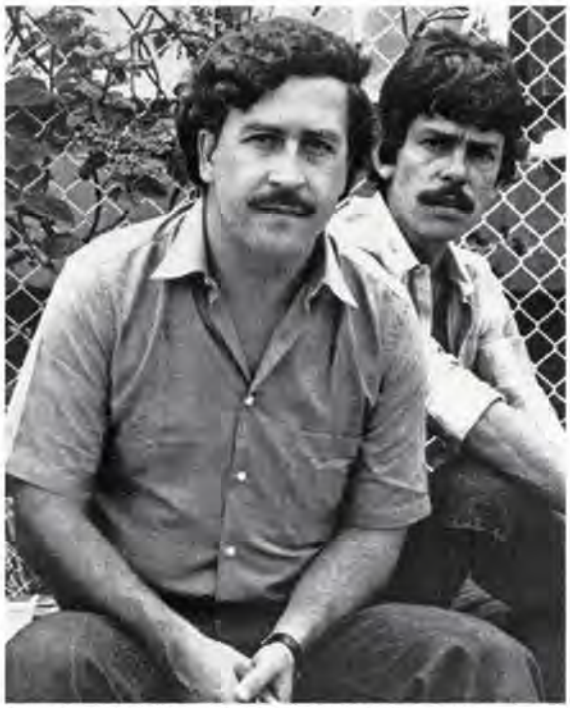
THE FULL STORY

The August 1994 issue of *World Soccer* reported how Colombia's Andres Escobar was murdered after returning from the World Cup, where he had scored an own goal in his country's defeat by the USA.

"Escobar was shot 12 times before the men escaped in two jeeps," ran the story. "Police were sent to guard homes of other members of the World Cup squad who lived in Medellin.

"Police speculated that the outrage might be linked to the death threats which persuaded Colombian officials to withdraw Gabriel Gomez from the team to face the US. Coach Francisco Maturana was also subject to death threats."

Onwards and upwards...Matias Urbano (left) is challenged by Luis Cabral of Paraguayan side Guarani as Millonarios head for the last 16 in this year's Sudamericana Cup



Power game...Medellin drug lord Escobar with a bodyguard (right)

in a desperate state. The collision of the drug world and football, with its powerful connection to the masses, was inevitable.

The crossover perhaps began in Cali in 1979. Local side America had spent the previous 40 years swimming in a tide of mediocrity amid crippling financial constraints. But that year two brothers, Miguel and Gilberto Rodriguez, took control of the club. Within a season of the new management, America were crowned champions for the first time.

The Rodriguez brothers were, in fact, leaders of the powerful Cali drug cartel. They were also avid America fans, and through intricate networks of funding and accounting obscuration they used the club as an indispensable tool for channelling illicit funds. And they were not alone.

By the dawn of the 1980s other cartels had emerged, often in co-operation with the Cali group. The most powerful of these was the Medellin cartel and the city's football teams, Atletico Nacional and Independiente Medellin, both fell under its control.

In 1981, an era-defining image was splashed across Colombian sports pages. Nacional president Hernan Botero, reacting furiously to having finished the Medellin derby with seven players, was photographed waving a fistful of dollars in the referee's direction.

But this infamous shot that insinuated referees were being bought would be a mere aperitif for what was to come.

Four years later, Botero became the first Colombian to be extradited to the United States on money laundering charges. In his absence, Pablo Escobar, as leader of the Medellin cartel, quickly assumed power.

Over in Bogota, Millonarios counted among its shareholders Jose Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha. He was affectionately known as "The Mexican" and was a former pig farmer who had become a close associate of Escobar. He impressed with his business contacts and the secret smuggling networks he had built between Colombia and the US. He became the Medellin Cartel's man in the capital and Millonarios would reap those benefits with the 1987 and 1988 titles.

By the mid-1980s these three clubs were among the strongest on the continent. The most successful were America who won seven of 11 titles between 1981 and 1991, and also finished runners-up in the Libertadores Cup three years in succession.

But things soon started to spiral out of control. With divisions emerging among the cartels, and unimaginable riches spilling into their coffers the stakes were now very high.

The noose tightens

In 1988 referee Armando Perez was kidnapped. Six clubs were allegedly behind it and they agreed to free him on one condition – that neither America nor Millonarios rivals Santa Fe could be champions. A year later and the cartel noose around football's throat tightened tragically. Escobar, in a failed bid to bribe referee Alvaro Ortega, instead ordered his murder. The season was cancelled.

> "From 1949 to 1952 Millonarios illegally stole players. Are those titles invalid too?"
> Luis 'Chiqui' Garcia, former Millonarios coach

Five years later and national captain Andres Escobar fell by a bullet in a nightclub car park for having scored an own goal in the 1994 World Cup finals.

Almost 20 years on and several clubs are still suspected of having ties to the ever-powerful cartels, so Gaitan's idea has opened the door for a healthy discussion on the crimes of the past. Picking through the bones of this bloody and painful era will understandably be difficult, but his proposal does seem genuine. Ultimately, however, it also looks doomed.

Any post-mortem must involve all concerned in an open discussion to agree common ground and clean football's name. But Nacional and America made it clear they will not support the idea or return any of their titles. Even Millonarios countered their president's idea with a press release to say no proposal had been made to the board and that "there is a total respect for those players, coaches and especially for the fans".

Tainted title...Millonarios' 1988 champions

And that is the key. Deleting 15 years of Colombian history also erases the successes of players and coaches innocently caught up in that dark chapter.

Chiqui Garcia offers another view, arguing: "From 1949 to 1952, with Di Stefano, Millonarios were the best team in the world and champions many times. But they were also pirates for illegally stealing players, and for this the Colombian football federation were expelled from FIFA. Tell me, are these titles invalid too?"

Wherever the line is drawn, for players such as Carlos Valderrama, Rene Higuita – and, it may be argued, even Di Stefano – and for many others, their contribution should be celebrated, not wiped into the abyss. WS

Under arrest...Cali drug cartel boss Miguel Rodriguez is led into the federal prosecutor's office in Bogota in September 1996

VICTOR GUSEV
in Moscow

Denisov row threatens Zenit revolution

Money wrangles with captain unsettle the champions

Saint Petersburg was the birthplace of the October 1917 Revolution which brought about the end of the Russian monarchy and started the era of communist rule. Almost 100 years later another autumn revolt is taking place in the city – within the country's leading football club.

When Igor Denisov approached Zenit's owners asking to raise his annual salary to €5million last spring, the answer was a resounding no. The 28-year-old was told the Russian champions did not have the money.

The Russia midfielder and father of four stayed with the club, on a reported salary of €3m, but there followed a series of events throughout the summer which strongly supported his claim for a wage increase.

Firstly, Russia's new national coach Fabio Capello gave him the captain's armband. Secondly, Denisov kept his place while Zenit's squad was transformed by another Italian coach, Luciano Spalletti. Finally, Zenit made the impressive purchases of Brazilian striker Hulk and Belgium midfielder Axel Witsel, having reportedly paid around €100m for the pair.

But when the club still maintained that there was no more money for Denisov, he announced that he would not be venturing on to the pitch unless his request was met.

Big investment...Zenit have spent a reported €100m on Hulk (left) and Witsel

Zenit, one of the richest clubs in Russia and owned by the powerful Gazprom company, have always been a law unto themselves, a "closed club". In their entire history they have never fielded a black player, although all suggestions of discrimination have been rebuffed by the team's administration.

Many talented newcomers have failed to find a proper place at Zenit thanks to the arrogance of the club. Even Dynamo Moscow's experienced playmaker Igor Semshov, who joined the club for a short period a few years ago, was cold-shouldered both on and off the pitch and eventually returned to Moscow.

Internal revolt

On the other hand, there has never been an internal revolt. Denisov himself refused to play for the national team before Euro 2008 and goalkeeper Vyacheslav Malafeev has followed his example by refusing to play in the 2014 World Cup qualifiers. But nobody has ever refused to play for the club before. The core of the team have always been loyal to club owners who have been more than generous.

That is why Denisov's decision came as such a bombshell. And when he received the support of close friend and Zenit's top striker Alexander Kerzhakov, both were sent to train with the club's youth team. Kerzhakov, however, made a quick return after being talked into it by Gazprom's top man Alexei Miller. The forward returned to the starting line-up for the Champions League games against Malaga and Milan. Denisov's place on the pitch was occupied by Witsel – but it was not enough to prevent the Russian champions losing both games.

Zenit have not done as well as expected in the domestic league either, and they trail Anzhi Makhachkala, the nouveau-rich club who are owned by oligarch Suleyman Kerimov and who include Samuel Eto'o in their line-up.

Ironically, Anzhi could well become Denisov's next club if the conflict is not settled. And there is no guarantee that some other Zenit players will not join him in his revolt, especially if the well-paid newcomers fail to produce at home and in Europe. Zenit's old-timers, primarily Roman Shirokov, known for his outspoken comments on Twitter, will surely not remain silent for long.

Denisov is a tough guy to pick an argument with. In September 2010 he almost had a fight with Zenit chief administrator and former team-mate Vladislav Radimov, who made a wrong refereeing decision during a practice game. Later the same year Denisov had a post-game row with the then-Spartak manager Valeri Karpin after intentionally kicking the ball towards the coaches' bench – an act for which he received a four-game suspension.

So far, Zenit fans – who are among the most devoted supporters in Russia – have backed the owners, welcoming Hulk and blaming Denisov for putting money before football. However, that could all change unless results start to pick up. WS

WHO EARNS WHAT IN RUSSIA

Samuel Eto'o	€20m
Fabio Capello	€12m
Hulk	€6.5m
Igor Denisov	€3m
Axel Witsel	€3m

(* These are *approximate figures taken from various media sources)*

BRIAN HOMEWOOD
in Berne

Patriot games

No-win situation for ethnic Albanian star Xhaka

Switzerland midfielder Granit Xhaka must have felt he was between a rock and a hard place when his side faced Albania in September's World Cup qualifier. Criticised by the Albanian media and insulted by those supporters who thought he should be playing for them, he then found his loyalty questioned by the Swiss after the game for missing an easy chance when his side led 2-0.

Xhaka is one of a large contingent of ethnic Albanians in the Switzerland squad. That group includes Xherdan Shaqiri and Valon Behrami, who are originally from Kosovo, and Blerim Dzemaili and Admir Mehmedi, who were born in the Albanian region of Macedonia.

Like the others, Xhaka's parents fled the troubles in the region in the 1990s. He was raised and educated in Switzerland, speaks the highly guttural and, to most outsiders, unfathomable Swiss-German dialect, and learned his football there.

Switzerland was generous in accepting immigrants fleeing from the war in Yugoslavia and an estimated 250,000 ethnic Albanians live in the country. Although the process of integration has been a far from happy one, football is one area in which the community has flourished.

The Kosovo-Albanian presence has been like gold dust for the Swiss Football Association (SFV-ASF) in a country where most of the population are traditionally more interested in Alpine skiing and ice hockey.

During the 1990s, the Swiss federation developed one of Europe's most impressive youth development schemes under the leadership of Hansruedi Hasler, a former coach of second division sides Grenchen and Biel.

Hasler laid down guidelines encouraging every professional club to employ full-time youth coaches, with financial support from the SFV-ASF. In a country where more than 20 per cent of the population do not have a Swiss passport, and where many of the others have immigrant backgrounds, he also put an emphasis on integration.

"In Swiss football, 42 per cent of players have origins outside the country," explains Hasler. "So football in our country is a wonderful example of integration. At the elite level – that is the professional clubs – the figure is more like 50 per cent and it is normal for those players to have two passports.

"At grass-roots level, our clubs are great examples of community spirit and integration. We should initiate some scientific research to show why integration works so well in football."

The downside is that some players eventually choose to take the other option. One recent case was that of Frank Feltscher, a Zurich-born midfielder who represented Switzerland at under-21 level but then accepted an offer to pay for Venezuela, his mother's country, at senior level.

Branded as traitors

During the game against Albania in Lucerne, Xhaka and the others were roundly booed by the large contingent of the visitors' supporters. Often seen as role models for integration in Switzerland, they found themselves branded as traitors in the Balkan nation.

Xhaka felt compelled to pen an open letter, blaming the Albanian Football Association president, Armand Duka, for the loss of potential talent to other national teams.

"This letter is directed at every Albanian sports fan," he wrote. "The reason is that certain sports media and columnists started an unprecedented war against me and some of my team-mates before and after the recent match, where I was an opponent of my nation. This was especially the case of Armand Duka, who carries the blame for the loss of countless red-and-black talents.

"We were, are and always will be, proud of our descent. I will always proudly use my name in service of my fatherland. With my head held high and with pride, I have always made it clear where my roots are and will do so for the rest of my life.

"Albania has great talents all over the world. I hope those boys don't have to go through the same trouble as I did when my country's federation, at the time Switzerland wanted me, put needless obstacles in my way.

"The Albanian people should know, that I, Granit Xhaka, who was denounced as a traitor, am the son of a prisoner of conscience, who, driven by his beliefs of a greater Albania, was imprisoned in Serbia. I was born and raised with the spirit of patriotism by my parents. Wherever I am and will be, I will carry

SWITZERLAND'S UNITED NATIONS

The parental nationality of Switzerland's starting XI v Albania in September 2012
*(all players were born in Switzerland, except those marked *)*

Divided loyalties...Xhaka (second right) celebrates Inler's (centre) goal against Albania in September, but remains fiercely proud of his roots in the Balkan country

the red-black flag with pride as well as that of Kosovo."

That letter in turn prompted criticism from within Switzerland, where a TV commentator had already questioned the miss by Xhaka against Albania, even though he had scored the first goal.

"What was that?" claimed Sasha Ruefer. "All he needed was to push the ball home.

"I'd like to see that again... presumably Xhaka was not unhappy at not having scored against Albania."

Former international striker Hakan Yakin, who was born in Basle of Turkish parents and capped 87 times by Switzerland described the comments as scandalous and said that Ruefer should quit. The commentator later backed down, saying he regretted the comment.

Switzerland coach Ottmar Hitzfeld, who is German, also came to Xhaka's defence, insisting: "The Albanian press attacked him and other players, calling them traitors. That hurts. For people on the outside it is hard to judge how people with a migration background feel."

> "Wherever I am, I will carry the [Albanian] red-black flag with pride" Granit Xhaka

Xhaka, Shaqiri and Behrami could have a further option to consider should Kosovo eventually win the right to play international football. All three signed a declaration backing the Football Federation of Kosovo's application to be allowed to play friendlies – a decision that has been delayed following opposition from UEFA president Michel Platini and the Serbian federation.

Under fire...Albanian FA president Duka is accused by Xhaka of being responsible for the exit of his county's footballing talent

Shaqiri told *SonntagsBlick* newspaper that playing for Kosovo was something he would consider. "Of course, it makes you think," he said. "I originally come from Kosovo. If Kosovo gets a national team, I will assess this situation."

He may have to wait a while. Having been told by FIFA that they could start playing internationals in May, Kosovo saw a final ruling put on hold until July, and then September, with the verdict now having been held over until the next ExCo meeting in December. **WS**

KLAAS-JAN DROPPERT
in The Hague

The odd couple

Twente and Vitesse were the Eredivisie's surprise pacesetters

Plus point...Vitesse striker Bony (in yellow and black) takes on the Feyenoord defence

Twente and Vitesse were the unusual tandem at the top of the table after seven games of the season. The positions, however, were misleading as not only were Ajax and PSV just a footstep behind, but Twente have not convinced.

The Enschede club spent £20million on new signings in order to erase the memory of a trophyless campaign last season, but there have been some hiccups along the way.

The "Tukkers" – as inhabitants of the area of Twente are called – enjoyed clean sheets against minor teams before getting their first real examination in round seven. Away at Ajax they clearly failed the test after gambling on a draw, and the Amsterdam club thoroughly deserved their 1-0 win.

And things weren't much better in cup ties, either. A last-minute blunder by amateur club RVVH's goalkeeper Jacob Van den Belt prevented a humiliating elimination in the third round of the national competition, while Europa League qualification was only secured against Bursaspor in extra time. In the group phase, Twente gave away a 2-0 lead to Hanover and then had to come from 2-0 down against Helsingborg, arguably the weakest team in the group.

The pressure is on coach Steve McClaren, who could use some success after miserable spells at Wolfsburg and Nottingham Forest. However, the 51-year-old Englishman must have noticed he is viewed differently this time, even though he can't speak a word of Dutch.

Back in 2010 he was praised for his professionalism and for creating history with Twente's first national title. But since returning halfway through last season he has lost a lot of goodwill. Twente were on course for silverware when he arrived, but in the end they could finish only sixth, getting a Europa League place thanks to Holland's fair-play ranking.

Twente's cautious style and McClaren's post-match interviews – consisting of cliches like "that's football" and "the next game is the most important one" – have done more harm than good.

Perennial problems

Seventy kilometres south there is a different situation. Vitesse used to be a club in turmoil, with perennial squad problems and continual financial woes.

When Georgian businessman Merab Jordania turned up in 2010 to buy the club he caused plenty of guffaws by announcing that Vitesse would be champions within three years.

At first, his critics had a point. A close friend of Roman Abramovich, Jordania turned Vitesse into a shop window for Chelsea. Former right-back Albert Ferrer, who had no coaching experience, came over from London to take charge of a team consisting of Chelsea loanees. The move was a disaster, Vitesse just escaped relegation and Ferrer was sacked.

However, since then things have changed. Former player John Van den Brom took over and led the team to a seventh-place finish and their first European ticket in 10 years.

Van den Brom then abandoned ship, but not just because Anderlecht made him an offer he couldn't refuse. The coach wasn't happy with being kept away from the transfer policy, while Jordania wasn't satisfied with a mid-table position.

So in came Fred Rutten, the coach much praised for creating the structure of McClaren's success in Enschede.

So far he has proved to be the right man in the right place. With experienced players like goalkeeper Piet Veldhuizen, central defender Guram Kashia and midfielder Theo Janssen, Vitesse can go a long way – especially, if they manage to keep bulky Ivorian striker Wilfried Bony during the winter break.

Rutten says his team won't be title contenders without new recruits, but he is not sure whether they will arrive. "I've landed in a Hollywood movie", he says jokingly. "I just don't know whether it's a comedy or science fiction."

Jordania is building a new training complex and has plans to take over the Gelredome stadium, with oil company Gazprom probably be the club's next big sponsor. But he isn't known for his patience so nobody can tell which way Vitesse will go in the end.

Maybe Steve McClaren does have the right answer when he says: "That's football." WS

MEET THE MAN...WHO OWNS VITESSE

Merab Jordania

A former player with Dinamo Tbilisi, Torpedo Kutaisi and Guria Lanchkhuti, he was president of the Georgian Football Federation from 1998 to 2005 and had a brief spell as temporary coach of the national side in 2003.

In 2010 he became the first foreigner to own a Dutch club, promising to win the Eredivisie within three years and to invest millions in the team. There has been much controversy in Holland over the businessman's background, however. He has served time in prison on two occasions for "tax evasion, fraud and embezzlement", although on both occasions he has secured his release after paying a substantial fine and complained that these were politically motivated arrests.

It has always been considered something of a mystery as to how he came to find the private resources to fund the purchase of Vitesse, with several commentators convinced that he has been acting as a frontman for other investors.

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TIM VICKERY
in Rio de Janeiro

Inspirational Seedorf brings Dutch vision

Ex-Holland international spurs on Botafogo's Libertadores ambition

"Most of the games in the Brazilian championship lack flow," wrote Tostao in September, "because the referees keep blowing for fouls, and because the players are more concerned with fouling each other, complaining, arguing and diving. There is no exchange of passes between defence and attack, or collective play. There are just isolated individual moments, because there are some good players around, especially the veterans."

When writing his piece, Brazil's 1970 World Cup winner may well have had in mind the 36-year-old Dutch midfielder Clarence Seedorf, the most high-profile European ever to play in club football in Brazil.

With the defensive lines operating very deep, the question of where to fit Seedorf into the wide open spaces of a domestic Brazilian midfield initially proved a headache for Botafogo coach Oswaldo De Oliveira. But with his intelligence and technical excellence, Seedorf was soon able to turn a problem into an opportunity. Operating further forward than in his days with Milan, he has turned those gaping spaces into an invitation to wreak havoc, enjoying a splendid season and also weighing-in with his fair share of goals as Botafogo chase a place in next season's Libertadores Cup.

By the start of October, Seedorf and his team-mates were in sixth place, seven points behind fourth-placed Vasco da Gama, whose own charge is also being led by a veteran in 37-year-old Juninho. Fourth place, however, will only be good enough to qualify for the Libertadores so long as a Brazilian club does not win the Sudamericana Cup.

Sao Paulo have two chances of qualifying for next year's Libertadores as they are chasing fourth-place in the league and are also through to the last 16 of the Sudamericana. And they thought they had given their chances a significant boost with the signing of Paulo Henrique Ganso from Santos,

> It has been suggested Ganso might not play again until next year

paying almost £8million for a five-year contract and a 45 per cent stake in the player in the biggest-ever transaction between two Brazilian clubs. But, bizarrely, it seems that a full medical only took place after the deal had been completed, with Sao Paulo then discovering that the state of Ganso's knees was merely "reasonable". It has since been suggested that the attacking midfielder may not be fit to play until next year.

Some two-and-a-half years ago Ganso was seen as the great hope of the Brazilian game. Injuries are a large part of the explanation for his stalled career, but premature praise, poor form and the breakdown of his relationship with Santos are also contributory factors. In 2010 he was seen – at the very least – as an equal partner with Neymar; two years on, he is very much in the shadow of Brazil's emblematic number 11.

Running the show...Seedorf takes on Corinthians

Santos are struggling

Even with Neymar, Santos are struggling. Or, to be more accurate, they are having a hard time while their star is frequently absent on international duty. The 20-year-old striker appeared in just 10 of his side's first 27 championship games. In his presence Santos showed title-winning form, but without him they have been poor and are dangerously close to the relegation zone.

It is extraordinary that Brazilian clubs

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY

Religious fury over "crucified" Neymar

A photograph on the front cover of football magazine *Placar*, featuring Neymar being crucified, has been attacked in Brazil as being disrespectful.

Religious leaders claimed "the image of Jesus Christ is seen with the face of a footballer" and that it "is a clear lack of respect that offends the most sacred image for Christians".

***Placar* argue the picture was used simply as a metaphor to highlight the criticism that Neymar receives for supposedly diving.**

tolerate a domestic calendar that allows league games to overlap with FIFA international dates. With national coach Mano Menezes calling up an increasing number of home-based players, this is a problem which will surely have to be faced before long – although the need to accommodate the Confederations Cup in 2013 and then the World Cup the following year make an immediate solution unlikely.

The battle for the title race features a pair of Menezes rejects. Surrounded by quick players to give options for his range of passing, international outcast Ronaldinho enjoyed an excellent few months, helping Atletico-MG to the top of the table. However, the depth of their squad eventually told and their lead at the half way stage has been whittled away by Fluminense – whose spearhead is Fred, the talented though somewhat brittle former Lyon striker who has not featured for Brazil since October 2011.

With 13 goals, Fred was the league's top scorer by the start of October, and in his occasional absences the raw but eager Samuel has proved an effective deputy, slotting in well alongside nippy winger Wellington Nem. Flu's veteran playmaker Deco, who brings such clarity to their play, has been injured for large chunks of the campaign, but without him the team have picked up the knack of grinding out results even when not playing well. Marshalled by combative centre-back Gum, the defensive unit has been the championship's most solid, with goalkeeper Diego Cavalieri, who was hardly a success at Liverpool, in such fine form that calls for international recognition are rising.

Crowds have also been on the increase from the very disappointing mid-point average of 11,500. Two factors would seem to be behind the change: excitement levels going up as the championship reaches the closing stages and a few clubs slash admission prices in an attempt to fill their grounds.

The fact that this experiment with reduced entrance prices has been successful, and the fans have responded, must surely give Brazilian football some food for thought. Are the normal prices excluding too many fans?

It is an important question as the country prepares the modern, comfortable stadiums which will stage the 2014 World Cup. WS

MEHMET DEMIRCAN
in Istanbul

Farewell to the Magician

Fenerbahce cancel contract of fans' favourite Alex

It all started when Fenerbahce were on tour in Brazil, monitoring potential new signings. Their main target, identified by the club's scouts, had actually been a defender, Alex Rodrigo Dias da Costa. But in the end they signed Alex De Souza, rather than the big guy who later went on to play for PSV Eindhoven, Chelsea and, most recently, Paris Saint-Germain.

Alex de Souza is now 36 and it is almost eight years since he first wore the Fenerbahce shirt. He became a phenomenon in Turkey, scoring 172 goals in 344 matches and contributing 139 assists. But all that has now come to an end as his coach, Aykut Kocaman, has had enough of him. On Twitter, Alex accused his boss of resenting his popularity, claiming: "My coach is jealous because he doesn't want me to pass his club record of 176 goals."

So began a war of words between a much-loved player and a young coach – who had the backing of the country's most powerful football personality, Fenerbahce chairman Aziz Yildirim.

Alex was left out of this season's Champions League qualifier against Spartak Moscow in Russia which Fenerbahce lost 2-1. A 1-1 home draw was not enough to survive and the club dropped into the Europa League. The result sparked a crisis, with many people forced to take sides.

A 2-0 league loss to Kasimpasa was the final straw and Kocaman, followed by Yildirim, officially declared that Alex was no longer welcome at Fenerbahce.

Hundreds of fans gathered outside the Brazilian player's house after hearing the news that his contract had been cancelled. Meanwhile, tens of thousands took to social media networks to air their frustrations.

A tearful Alex and his wife watched the crowds from the balcony of their Bosphorus villa and began to prepare for a return to Brazil. For the brilliant "Magician", who has been arguably the most entertaining player in Turkey since Gheorghe Hagi left in 2001, it was an abrupt and undeserved end.

Both parties had been playing poker with each other, but the results had gone Fenerbahce's way. A 4-2 Europa League victory in Germany against Borussia Monchengladbach and a fine 3-0 win in the Istanbul derby against Besiktas gave Kocaman and Yildirim a clear advantage.

It came as a real shock to everyone to witness just how easily and quickly a star player could lose his job. Ten days after he had made a tearful speech at the unveiling of a statue in his honour in Istanbul's Kadikoy district, Alex had his contract terminated.

> "When I am a coach I won't allow any president in my dressing room" Alex

Big mistakes

After the news of his departure spread, Alex gave a revealing press conference. "I made some big mistakes," admitted the Brazilian midfielder. "I shouldn't have introduced this crisis on Twitter. It was a mistake to get into discussions with Ali Yildirim [Aziz Yildirim's brother]."

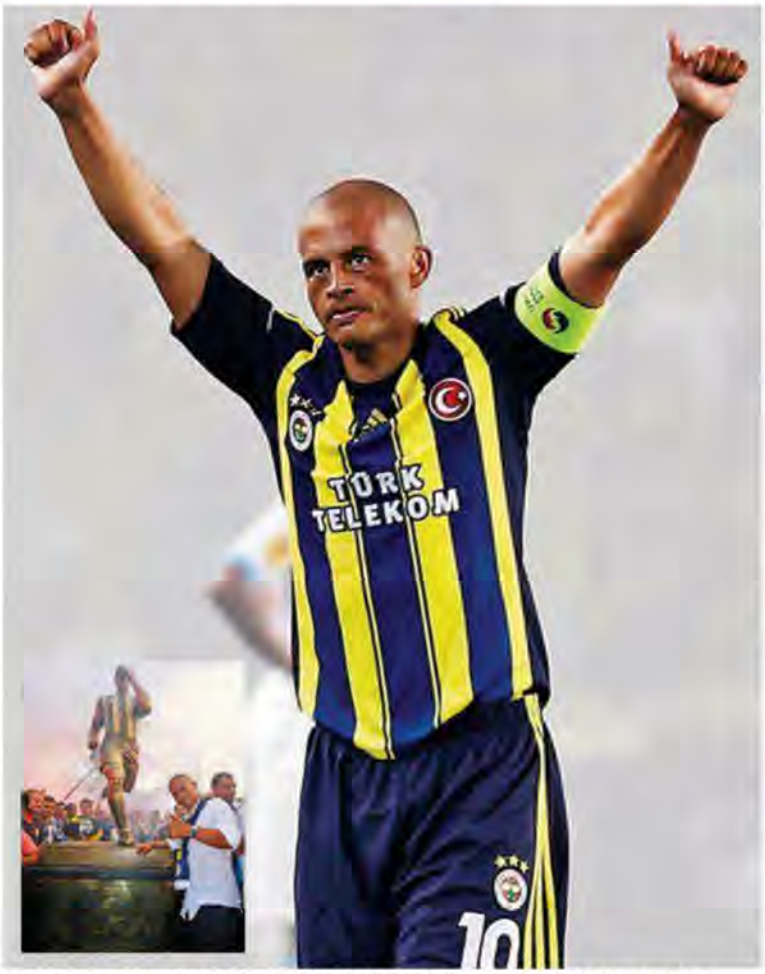
Alex also claimed that the chairman had fired him after the defeat by Swiss side Young Boys in the Champions League qualifiers two years ago but changed his mind three hours later.

The former Fenerbahce captain added: "Some people were trying to pull me into the politics of this game, but I am a soccer player. I am a professional player. I play football. I have a family to take care of. Fenerbahce lost a player but gained a real good fan.

"Now I just want to end my career in Brazil. But I have one dream left: to play my testimonial game in the Fenerbahce stadium. And when I am a coach in the future, it will be sure that I won't allow any president into my dressing room!"

From the perspective of the coach, Kocaman had never hidden his intention to prepare for life without Alex and he had warned that he would limit the playing time of the Brazilian "step by step" this season. With Holland international Dirk Kuyt making a strong start to the campaign, Alex was no longer the go-to guy – which placed him in a role he had not been used to during his eight years at Fenerbahce.

Many fans will remember Alex De Souza as one of the most important and influential players to perform in Turkey. But nor will they forget the conduct of Fenerbahce in this affair. WS



Alex...Fenerbahce unveiled a statue (inset) to the Brazilian, who says he remains a fan of the club

STEVE MENARY

Brazil awaits

The surprise Oceania champions seek more experience ahead of next year's Confederations Cup

Back in June, Tahiti became the only side other than Australia or New Zealand to win the OFC Nations Cup, and next year they will become the smallest FIFA member to play in the finals of a senior competition when they head to Brazil for the 2013 Confederations Cup.

With the island geographically isolated, competitive matches can be a logistical nightmare. However, in preparation for June's showdown between the champions of the world's six confederations, coach Eddy Etaeta took his side to Paris for September's Coupe de l'Outre-Mer, a biennial competition for French colonies.

Playing their opening game against Mayotte only a few days after a gruelling 22-hour flight from Papeete, Etaeta's jet-lagged side – some of whom needed to wear gloves even on a sunny French afternoon – found opposition striker Chamsidine Athoumani too hot to handle. He scored a hat-trick as Tahiti lost 3-1 and had defender Ariihau Teritau sent off late on.

The game augurs badly for next summer's meeting with the likes of Brazil, Spain and Uruguay, but at least the Confederations Cup brings a $1 million windfall for the Federation Tahitienne de Football (FTF), which is responsible for 72 clubs across French Polynesia and has just two full-time employees.

Paris match...Tahiti (in red) take on Mayotte in their opening game in the Coupe de l'Outre Mer

One of those, Etaeta's phlegmatic assistant Patrice Flaccadori, points out the remoteness of Tahiti, explaining: "French Polynesia is the size of Europe. It's a four-hour flight from Tahiti to Marquesas Islands. When you land, you then need another flight to get to the other islands."

> "Lots of people have licences to play but the crowds do not come"
> National coach Eddy Etaeta

Overseas experience

Resources available on the pitch to Etaeta – who is the federation's other full-time employee – are equally stretched. Of those with overseas experience, Tamatoa Wagemann has played in Germany and Switzerland, for Waldorf Mannheim and Alle respectively, while Nicolas Vallar spent time with Sete in France. And Sebastian Labayen was once with Bordeaux's academy side, but he is now 38.

Marama Vahirua, of Greek club Pantrakikos, is the only Tahitian currently playing abroad professionally, although Alvin Tehau recently spent six months with Indonesian second division side Aceh United. Tehau is typical of most Tahitians in not having an agent and says: "That means I don't have a chance to play in Europe. Only my coach has helped me."

That coach was Lionel Charbonnier, the former France international goalkeeper who led Tahiti to the 2009 Under-20 World Cup finals in Egypt. Although they were hammered 8-0 by both Spain and Venezuela, and also lost 5-0 to Nigeria, qualification itself was reward enough for a grass-roots coaching policy instigated in 2000 when Etaeta joined the FTF.

Tahiti also reached the 2011 Oceania Under-17 Championship Final, and this year Tefana became the first Tahitian club to reach the O-League Final, losing 3-1 on aggregate to Auckland City.

Yet even these successes seem to go unrecognised in Tahiti. Just 1,500 saw the national side play New Caledonia in a recent World Cup qualifier in Papeete, and when Tefana hosted the return leg of the O-League Final, trailing just 2-1, the crowd was only 1,900.

The lack of support is a constant source of irritation to Etaeta, who says: "Lots of people have licences to play but the crowds do not come."

Once over the jet lag in Paris, Tahiti recovered to beat Coupe de l'Outre-Mer holders Martinique 3-2 and New Caledonia 1-0, but missed out on a place in the Final on goal difference.

Etaeta now hopes to arrange games against better sides, citing Australia, Chile and Japan as ideal opponents ahead of the monumental challenge that awaits his team in Brazil. WS

WHERE IN THE WORLD

Tahiti is the largest island in the Windward group of French Polynesia, which comprises five archipelagos, between Australia and South America.

Population 180,000
Size 440 sq m
Capital Papeete
Language French, Polynesian
Religion Christianity

Facetoface

DIMITAR BERBATOV

"There's no-one in the national team who plays like me, with intelligence"

The Bulgarian striker turned down a move from Man United to Fiorentina in the summer and is now enjoying a new lease of life with Fulham

You retired from international football in May 2010. Would you ever consider a return to the Bulgaria side?
Things aren't as simple as they look. The coach, Luboslav Penev, who is the right man for the job, is the only man who would make it possible for me to return to the national squad. But I am standing by the decision I made more than two years ago. I won't return to the Bulgarian national team. There has been too long a period in which I have been out of the team. My time has passed and the boys have managed well without me. On the other hand, I don't see anyone in the national side who plays like me, with intelligence.

You had plenty of options when you left Manchester United during the summer. Why did you eventually choose to sign for Fulham?
I am a realist and I know my qualities. I need time to adapt to the playing rhythm of a new team. I am happy to play under Fulham coach Martin Jol, who I played for when I was at Tottenham Hotspur. I need to play, not be sitting on the bench. That's why when I made my debut with Fulham versus West Ham, even though we lost 3-0, I felt like we were winning 6-0. I feel great with the team and with the coach.

Fiorentina weren't happy when you joined Fulham. They claim that you had agreed to play for them...
I didn't agree to play for Fiorentina or anyone else. I didn't give any positive answers. I didn't say yes to anybody. Yes, my agent and I caused a little bit of confusion, and maybe this was our mistake. Then, suddenly, a man [Jol] for whom I have great respect and I know very well appeared, and I agreed to play for his team. I made this decision for the benefit of my family. I have a child, and maybe I will have another child. I decided that my family will be best in London. I am happy now because the most important thing for me is to play football and to enjoy playing football. What people say about me in Italy is of no interest to me.

How will it feel when you play against Manchester United and their manager, Alex Ferguson, for the first time with your new team?
I don't have a problem with this sort of thing. I left Manchester United after a year in which I hardly ever played. I was feeling very bad and didn't think I deserve that after I had been top goal scorer the previous season. But it is the manager's decision. He explained to me how the team needed to change the way they played and that I wasn't required. When I take into account my goals, I am proud of my time with Manchester United. I became a champion and top scorer, and with this team I reached the highest level of football. Maybe I should have gone the summer before, after I was left out of the squad for the Champions League Final at Wembley. After that I went to Sir Alex and asked him: "Boss, am I needed by you and the team because I want to play?" He answered: "Yes, you are needed. I want you to stay and fight for your place. If you deserve, you will play." And I tried to fight for my place, but it was in vain. Martin Jol spoke with Alex Ferguson, who told him that I had no place in his plans to play a more direct style with quick passes.

How do you now feel about your former manager, Alex Ferguson?
I am disappointed in him as a man. He lost my respect. I didn't deserve to be treated as I was and I said this to him. But he is one of the best managers in the world. There is no doubt about his successes.

What was your best moment with Manchester United?
When I signed my contract with the club, that was a dream. I remember my first training session, my first matches. When I scored a hat-trick against Liverpool, I was very happy. I was champion and a goalscorer with United.

At Manchester United, the club were always challenging for top honours. Will you miss this competitiveness now you are at Fulham?
Of course, this is normal. I know it will not be possible to win almost every game like it was with United. Maybe I will miss the matches in the Champions League too. But I am happy because I am playing football again. Maybe I will be nervous if we lose a few matches, but this is normal. I have played for a big team and I know what I can offer and what I need to learn. I want to enjoy playing football, to feel alive.

Will Fulham be your last club?
I really don't know. I want to play until I am 40, but I am not a goalkeeper, Paolo Maldini or Ryan Giggs. I want to play in England for several more years. I like England as a place. I like its mentality, its culture, its football.

What is it that you like about football in England?
I like the training, the methods of preparation, before and after a match. I like the style of playing, the atmosphere of the full stadiums. I have been in England six years and when I entered the pitch against West Ham, I felt respect from my new team-mates and from my opponents too.

How do you see your future?
I want to start a football academy in Bulgaria for children. I hope some of them will one day be famous with big European clubs.

Interview by Rumen Paytashev

On his way of playing...

"I have never been the fastest player. I prefer to keep the ball and to score goals the elegant way. It is my style"

Facetoface

PAUL LE GUEN

"Oman football should be optimistic. We can get results. We have the potential"

The French coach of Oman's national side is still targeting World Cup qualification

You had a lot of coaching offers when you left the Cameroon national team two years ago. Why did you take the Oman job?
I think it was a great challenge. Football is not professional enough here. It's a great job, a difficult job, we started from way down. But my aim is to help football in all of Oman to become professional. I think we have improved. We are far better now than a year ago.

What did you see when you arrived in Muscat, the country's capital?
People here love football. They love the Oman national team. They expect a lot from the Oman national team. The problem here is the level of the league. It's not strong enough. The players are not used to playing regularly. But there are talents. Some players are really gifted and able to do well. The problem was the players were not fit. The holidays were too long. You had Ramadan. It was really a problem. The players are more aware now.

Oman may not have the money that the United Arab Emirates and Qatar have, but you have enjoyed regional success in recent years and are in the final round of 2014 World Cup qualification. How has that been achieved?
You can only spend the money you have. We have less money so it is totally different. For me the basics are to try to organise a better league. Without that, football will stay at a lower level. It is the basics of football. For the league, people have to get used to coming to the stadiums and the players have to get used to playing another game midweek. And people have to know when the match will take place! When I got here you didn't know when the game was! But the chairman [of the Oman FA] has done a lot to change that.

What about the talent and football culture in Oman? How does it compare to the rest of the Gulf?
More people play on the street. I insist that with this talent we must not waste it. We must work hard. Oman football should be optimistic. We can get results. Our Olympic team almost qualified [for London 2012], we've made it to Asian tournaments. If we have the time people will see what talent we have. We are not far away, I feel that. We have the potential and if the players play high-level games we will compete with a great national team.

You are a small nation, similar in size to the Republic of Ireland, who you played in September. What can you learn from them?
In certain parts of the game they can be an example. Fighting spirit is not a legend, it is a reality. We know they have a fighting spirit. I think everywhere we can learn.

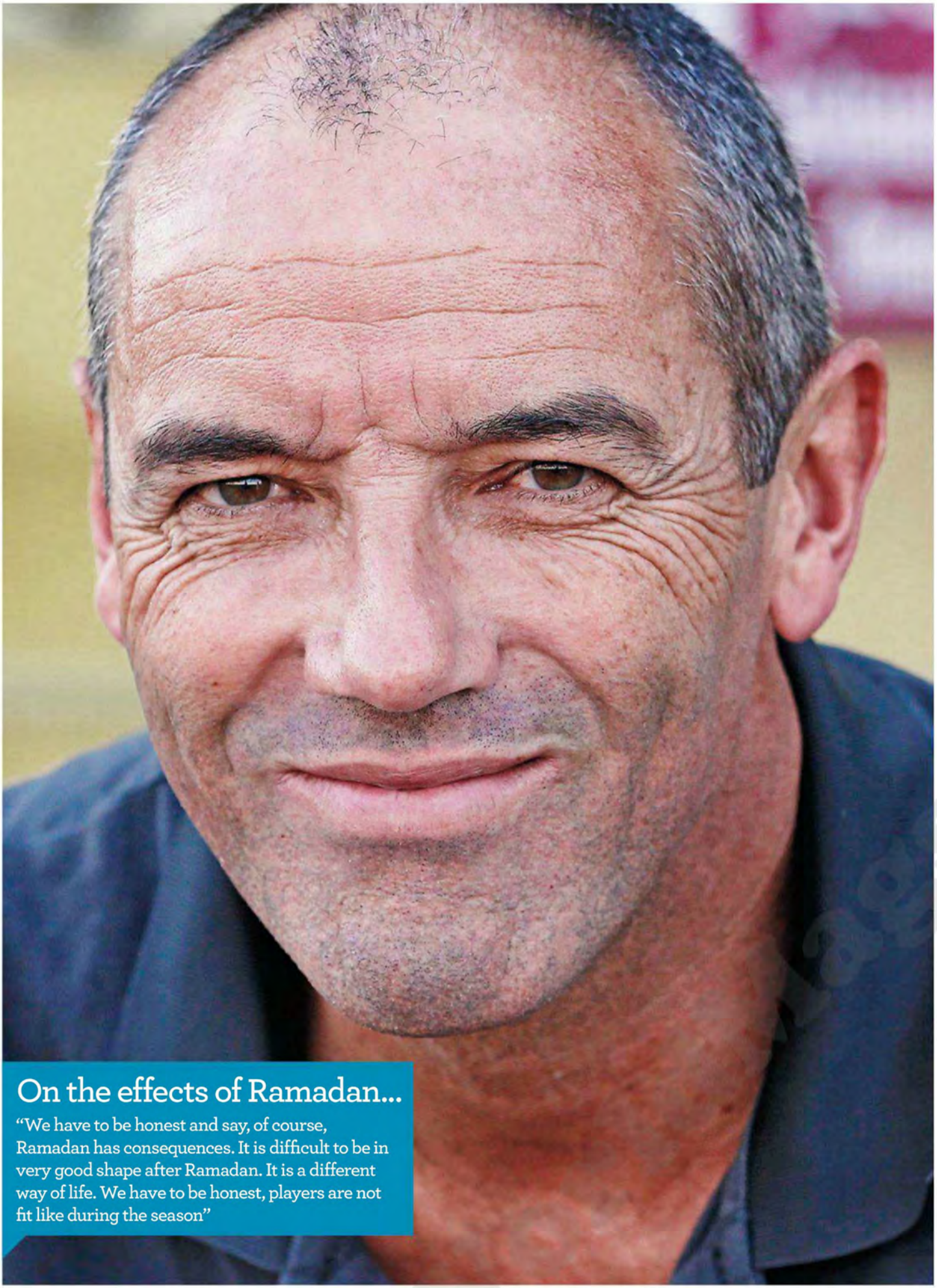
Most people won't have heard of many of the Oman team, except for your goalkeeper, Ali Al Habsi...
He's so important, that is why he is captain; that is why I made him captain when I arrived. He is the present and the future of the national team. He has succeeded abroad and he shows a great example. I think we have a new generation of gifted players that played with the Olympic team who now start with the national team. Hussain Al Hadhri, for example, and Raed Saleh: they are the future of the national team. They have to be good and they have to play abroad. They have to be good with the Oman national team so they can be seen by [foreign] clubs. They have this motivation [to earn higher wages] and it is not a shame to be motivated like this.

Present and future...Al Habsi

This is your second World Cup campaign. What did you learn from the experience of going to South Africa with Cameroon in 2010?
I think we learned from each experience. It was unbelievable. We were last in the [qualifying] group when I arrived. There were so many problems to get results. It was a very good experience as a coach and as a man. I have not forgotten anything, it was great. The potential of Cameroon is far better than Oman. We start from a lower level here, but we have to do the same things in Oman. In Cameroon there are so many strong players. When we went to the World Cup I selected 22 players playing in Europe. One was playing in Cameroon. Here one is playing abroad, 22 in Oman. We are starting from a lower level.

You have already knocked out Saudi Arabia and beaten Australia in the 2014 World Cup qualifiers. Can Oman make it to the finals for the first time?
It was a great surprise for us. I want our fans to know that we need their support. I want people to understand if we work we will get really great results. The country only has three million people. Really we are a very good side and, of course, Australia sand Japan are favourites in [our] group. Maybe we can finish third [and make the play-offs]. That would be a great performance.

Interview by James Montague



On the effects of Ramadan...

"We have to be honest and say, of course, Ramadan has consequences. It is difficult to be in very good shape after Ramadan. It is a different way of life. We have to be honest, players are not fit like during the season"

PLAYER Biography

Radamel Falcao

The Colombian striker is the most-wanted man in Europe. By Sid Lowe, with additional reporting by Carl Worswick and Joel Richards

Hat-trick hero...in the UEFA Super Cup

It's full-time at the Vicente Calderon and Radamel Falcao is heading towards the referee, Iturralde Gonzalez, with an arm outstretched and his palm turned upwards. When he gets there, he asks for the match ball. It is week five in his first season in Spain and he has just scored a hat-trick. Or so he thinks. You can't have the ball, Iturralde tells him, because you didn't get a hat-trick.

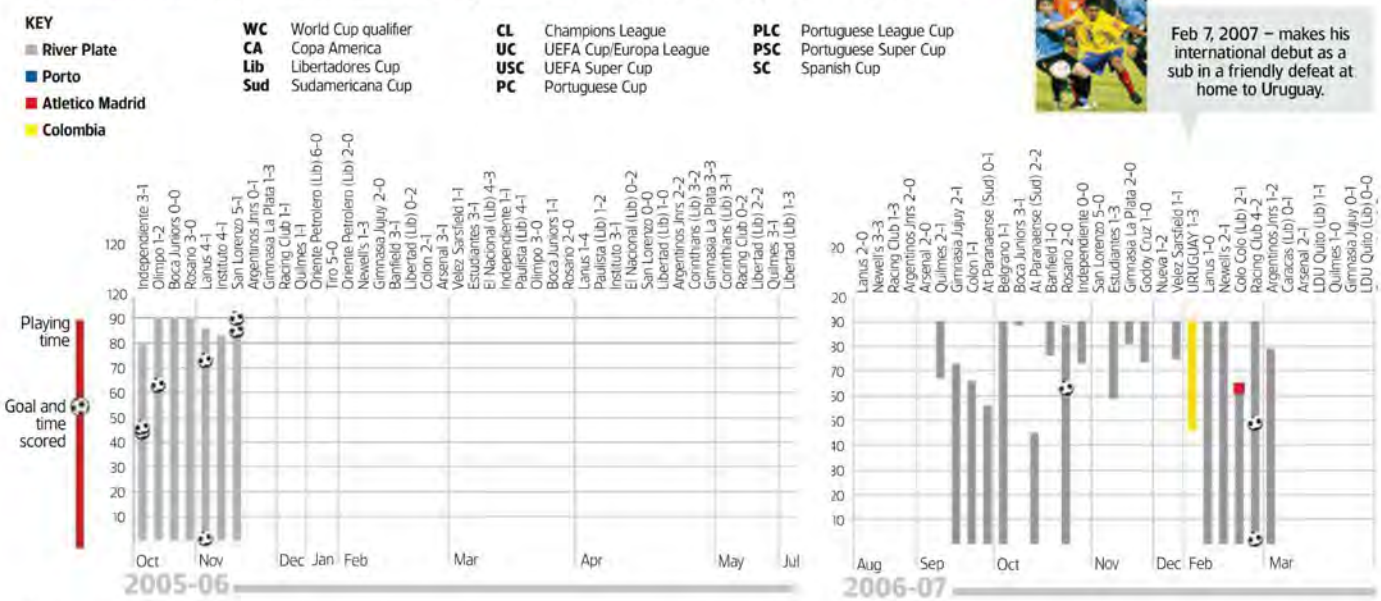
Falcao is bemused. The official had disallowed one goal, but what about the other three? The first, Iturralde tells him, was not yours: it was an own goal.

Falcao still remembers it, a year later, but it's not a thorn in his side. It might have been more of a problem if it wasn't for the fact that he already had one match ball at home from week four and it might have been more of a problem if it wasn't for the fact that he would go on to get more. Many more.

Falcao had scored a hat-trick the week before against Racing Santander and he completed another against Real Sociedad in March. He would then score a hat-trick at the start of this season – and this time everyone would notice. Three stunning goals in 39 minutes won Atletico Madrid the UEFA Super Cup against Chelsea. A few weeks later, he was Spain's top scorer, even ahead of Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo, and was being talked about as a future World Player of the Year and the finest number nine in Europe.

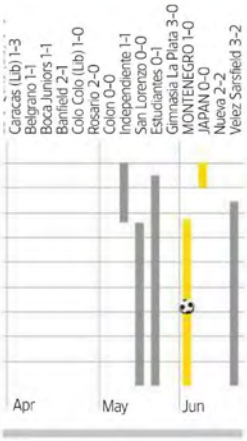
Suddenly, it was as if everyone had ▸

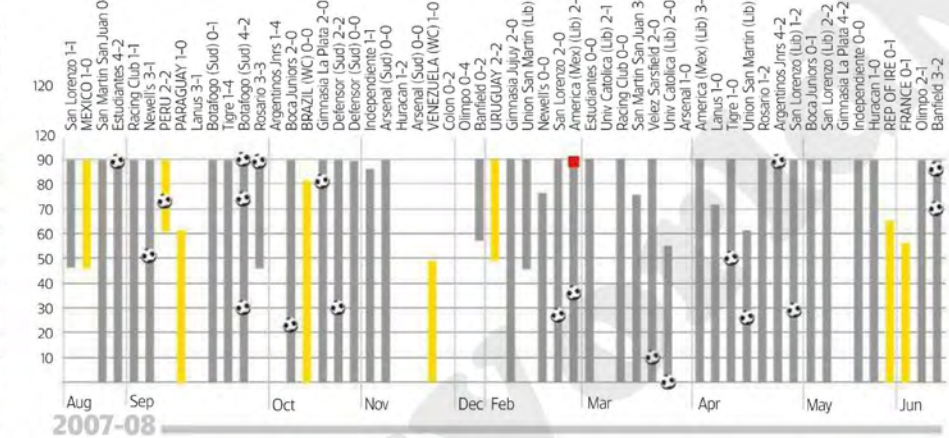
TIMELINE: EVERY MATCH, EVERY MINUTE, EVERY GOAL

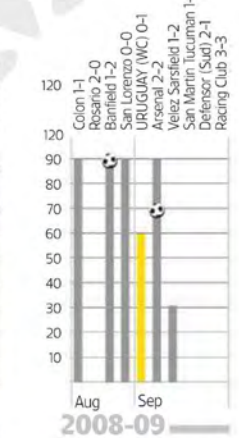


Sep 27, 2007 – scores his first professional hat-trick as River Plate beat Botafogo in a Sudamericana Cup tie at El Monumental.

Jun 8, 2008 – victory at home to Olimpo gives River Plate the Argentinian clausura title.







FACT FILE

Radamel Falcao Garcia Zarata

Nationality
Colombian

Age
26 (10.02.86)

Place of birth
Santa Marta, Colombia

Height
5ft 10in (1.77m)

Position
Centre-forward

Teams
River Plate (2005-2009) 107 games/45 goals
Porto (2009-2011) 87 games/72 goals
Atletico Madrid (2011-present) 56 games/46 goals*
Colombia (2007-present) 40 caps/13 goals*

Honours
River Plate
Argentinian clausura 2008
Porto
Europa League 2011; Primeira Liga 2011, 2012; Portuguese Cup 2010, 2011; Portuguese Super Cup 2009,2010, 2011
Atletico Madrid
Europa League 2012; UEFA Super Cup 2012

(details correct up to and including 30.09.12)*

Promise...the young striker (circled)

In 1999, 13-year-old Falcao made history as the youngest player ever to play in the Colombian league

discovered Falcao. He could have been forgiven for wondering what had taken them so long.

Away from his roots

Born on Colombia's Caribbean coast, but swiftly whisked away from his roots, Falcao began his early years in a country not traditionally known for its football.

The son of a professional footballer, he was named after the Brazil and Roma star who formed part of the glorious *Selecao* midfield in 1982. But while his dad was a defender and his namesake a midfielder, the youngster ended up at the other end of the pitch.

Following in tow while his father chased the twilight years of his own career as a centre-half, the young Falcao spent five years being dragged across Venezuela.

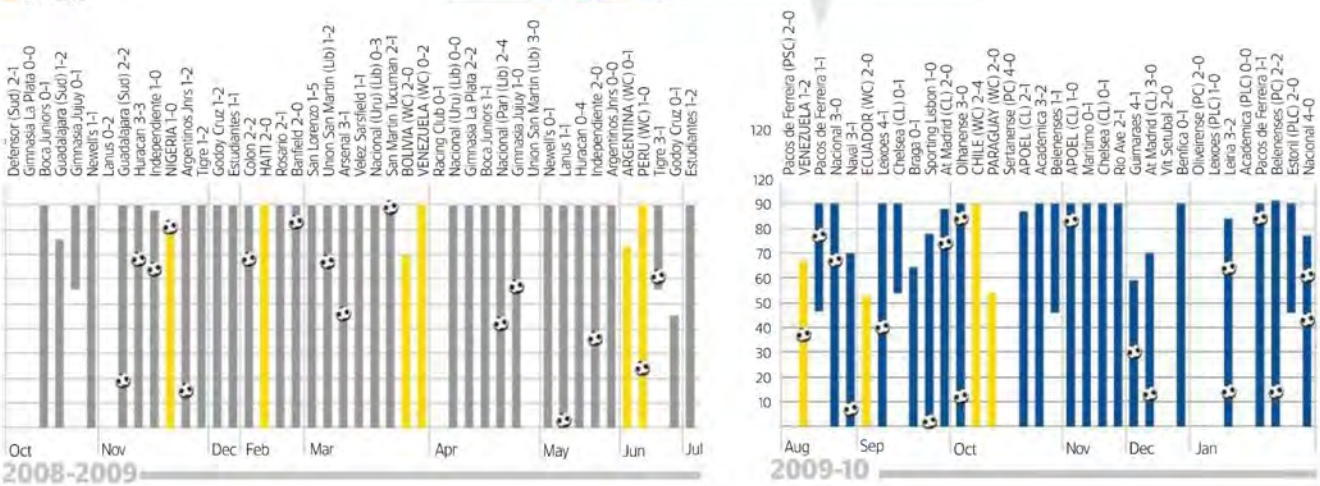
It was in this childhood period, at the end of the 1980s, that he showed an early interest in and aptitude for sport – but it wasn't at football that he initially excelled. Venezuela's national game is baseball and its all-pervading influence did not leave the young child untouched. After an incident in which he was left with a bloody nose from a pitched ball, he pleaded with his father to show him how to play. A few weeks later his father caught up on his progress.

"I spoke to a baseball coach who'd seen him play and he told me my son was very good," recalls Falcao senior. "He then begged me to allow him to dedicate himself just to baseball."

But his father's guiding hand soon

Dream debut...scoring twice, against Independiente, in his first game for River Plate

Aug 16, 2009 – scores after just 32 minutes of his Porto debut, away to Pacos de Ferreira, after coming on as a second-half substitute.



Dramatic...Colon defender Alexis Ferrero can only look on as Falcao executes an acrobatic attempt on goal

led him away from the diamond and towards the football field. By the time he returned to Colombia, the youngster was already treating football seriously.

He progressed through a number of coaching schools before landing in the services of coach Miguel Rojas at the age of 12. Rojas remembers Falcao as a model youngster, dedicated and hardworking, who was always in charge of collecting other children's money to buy rounds of soft drinks.

"We'd just qualified for the national championships, but in the last game Falcao got injured and couldn't play," says Rojas. "I remember him crying so

Champion...his first league title success with Porto in 2011

I put my arm around him and told him there'd be many more opportunities in the future."

In 1999, 13-year-old Falcao made history as the youngest player ever to make his debut in the Colombian league, appearing as a first-half substitute for second division side Lanceros Fair Play. His father, the assistant manager, was sent off that day and Lanceros crashed to a 4-1 defeat, but a few weeks later Falcao scored his first professional goal. It would be his only goal in the Colombian league as within a year he had been snapped up by Argentina's River Plate.

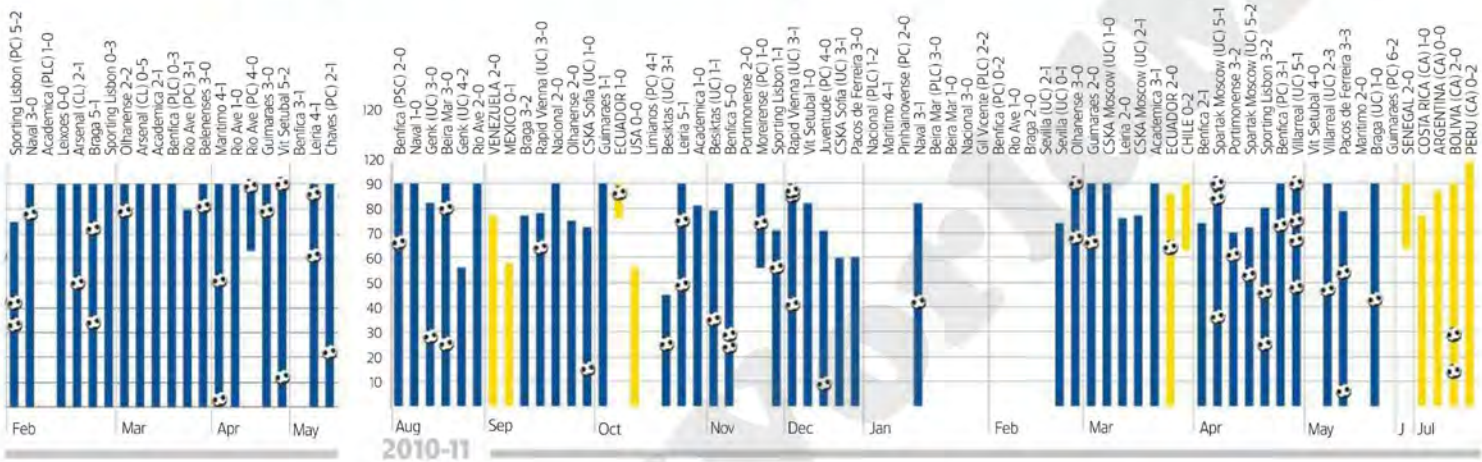
Legend has it Falcao turned down the offer to rest after the long flight from Colombia when he first arrived in Buenos Aires in 2001. He opted to go straight to training and start his trial with River Plate.

One version has him scoring a single goal, while another puts the tally at five. Beyond the finer details of how his first day went, he impressed Delem, the Brazilian who oversaw the club's youth system and had already brought through the likes of Ariel Ortega, Hernan Crespo, Pablo Aimar and Javier Saviola. In the same board meeting in which River Plate agreed to pay the $500,000 fee for Falcao, another Colombian striker's future was also discussed, with Juan

May 16, 2010 – a goal in the Portuguese Cup Final against Chaves helps Porto to victory.

Dec 2, 2010 – scores his first hat-trick for Porto in a Europa League win away to Rapid Vienna.

May 18, 2011 – scores the only goal in the Europa League Final as Porto beat Braga in Dublin.



Pablo Angel leaving for Aston Villa.

Falcao took four years to make his debut – time he spent in the club's residency having left his family in Colombia. In between listening to Oasis in the dormitory and working his way through the youth ranks, Falcao began a degree in journalism at the University of Palermo. By the time he scored his first goals for the first team – two in the 3-1 win in the *clasico* against Independiente – he said only two of his classmates had recognised him. While he went unnoticed at university, he had already earned the respect of his peers. After one under-15s match, team-mate Gonzalo Luduena told him he had played like a *tigre*. The nickname stuck.

Having made his debut for coach Leonardo Astrada, it was under Reinaldo Merlo that Falcao showed his promise with a run of seven goals in seven games in the 2005 apertura. Yet in the close season he ruptured knee ligaments in a training session and was sidelined for 10 months. Falcao's faith became even more important to him. "God gave me strength to recover and keep playing football," he later said.

Europa success... with Atletico coach Simeone after victory over Bilbao in the 2012 Final

Winner...with his UEFA Super Cup winners' medal after beating Chelsea

His return to form took time and the following year he scored just three goals in 20 appearances. But the 2007-08 season would see him win his first title with River Plate – the clausura - and his first title with Diego Simeone as coach.

A year later, with River immersed in institutional crisis, the club needed to sell. When Benfica's interest dropped off, Falcao's agent Nestor Sivori and deal-broker Marcelo Simonian reached an agreement with Porto, and River sold their 50 per cent stake in the striker for $5million.

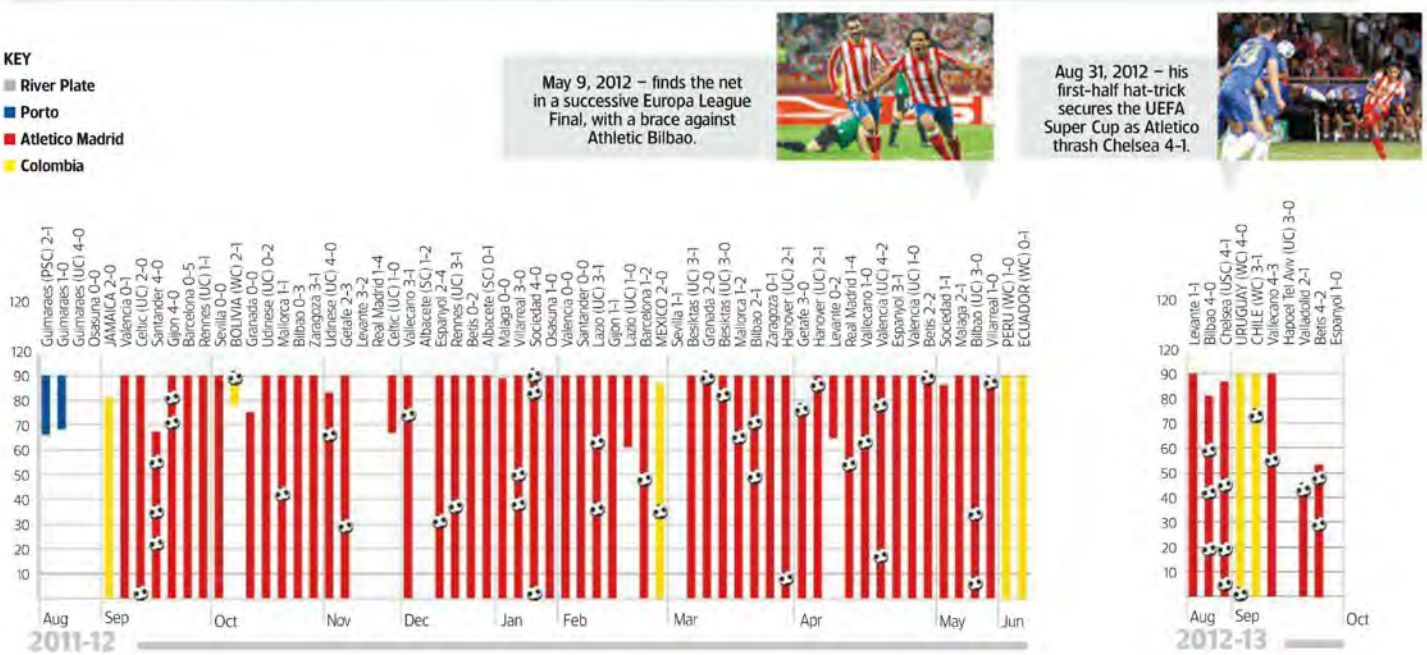
Meanwhile, Falcao had made his senior international debut for Colombia in a friendly against Uruguay in 2007. Since then, injuries and a defensive tactical approach have hindered his contribution and he was even dropped to the bench for the start of the 2014 World Cup qualifiers. However, Jose Pekerman's appointment as national coach this year saw Falcao restored to the side and the number-nine position is now firmly secured as he looks to guide Colombia to their first World Cup finals in 16 years.

Universal recognition

Falcao is not young – at 26 he is older than Lionel Messi – and that it has taken this long for his talent to be universally recognised is partially explained by his knee ligament problems. But it is also due to the fact that he has not leapt straight to the top. From Colombia to Argentina, to Portugal, to Spain...and even then not to one of Spain's big two.

When he has been fit, he has rarely failed to score goals. Twenty-five in his first league season at Porto, 18 (in 22 games) in his second – 34 and 37 over all, respectively – and then 36 in all competitions for Atletico Madrid last season.

Over one hundred goals in Europe



Single-minded...Rayo Vallecano's Jose Manuel Casado struggles to stop him

and a remarkable degree of consistency suggests that for him to be treated as a revelation is somewhat short-sighted. In 2010-11 he scored 17 goals in the Europa League, breaking the record held by Jurgen Klinsmann. Last year he finished top scorer in the competition again – the first player to be top scorer two years running. Both times he won the tournament, with different sides, and he scored in both Finals.

But perhaps it takes a bigger stage for people to notice and Falcao is aware that the Europa League does not have the resonance that the Champions League does. This summer even Atletico Madrid's CEO Miguel-Angel Gil Marin recognised that keeping Falcao was unlikely after the team failed to qualify for this season's competition. Falcao himself admits that he did not know what would happen. That hints at another issue which is likely to become live again in the very near future: his destiny is not in his own hands.

"Sixty million euros for Falcao would solve all the economic problems at Atletico," says Gil Marin. "But I can say for sure that he will stay with us until the end of the season."

Investment fund

When Falcao arrived in Madrid he cost Atletico €40m, rising another €7m with add-ons. It was money Atletico did not have, but they signed him with the aid of an investment fund. Many thought he was too expensive – and certainly no Sergio Aguero, who had just departed for Manchester City. There were even some whistles for him in his first season.

By his very nature, Falcao is a player who thrives on goals, and if he is not scoring he can appear to be not involved in a game at all. He is what the Spanish describe as a *rematador* (a finisher).

Simeone had been Falcao's coach at River Plate and when he took over at Atletico, the club and the Colombian took off. After Atletico's Europa League success, Simeone said he was especially pleased for the quiet, committed kid he had first met years before.

> "Sixty million euros for Falcao would solve Atletico's economic problems"
> Miguel-Angel Gil Marin

Falcao admits to being "obsessed" with goals. His is the triumph of temperament as much as talent. He says he never even went to a disco in Colombia, that he sacrificed much of his adolescence to make it. His father had warned him that football is a "strange" industry, but he was ready for it.

A committed Christian, team-mates describe him as quiet but determined. He talks in a whisper. There is no flashiness. Strong, quick, technically gifted. But above all, clever. Capable of scoring from any position.

Just looking at him you can see the dedication: there is not an ounce of fat on him. He is powerfully built, but not excessively big. On the pitch, his movements are studied, worked through. There's a single-mindedness about his pursuit of his prey.

Watch a player-camera trained on him during a game and it's fascinating. The word "predatory" does not seem out of place. Slow, slow, a raised hand, then a sudden explosion of movement, followed by a sprint, and, bang, it's in. Or you see him almost slink away from defenders, as if hiding from them, creeping into the space behind them and before they've reacted the ball is in the net.

No wonder they call him the tiger. But he is only the tiger on the pitch. One member of the Atletico team explained his routine to *El Pais*: "On the morning, he's friendly, open. At lunch time, you can see he's concentrating that bit more. And by the time you leave the hotel for the ground, he's completely different. The contrast is huge.

"He leaves the dressing room last. And if you see his face at that point, he's no longer Falcao; he's the tiger. His only thought is the ball."

There is just one problem for Atletico Madrid fans: Falcao is too good. They have grown accustomed to their best players departing. Worse still, a few weeks ago Falcao's father admitted that his son's dream was to play for Real Madrid. "It's not a problem," Falcao told *Marca* in a recent interview. "All I am focused on is winning for Atletico Madrid. It wasn't important." There was something familiar about the response, both in tone and in content.

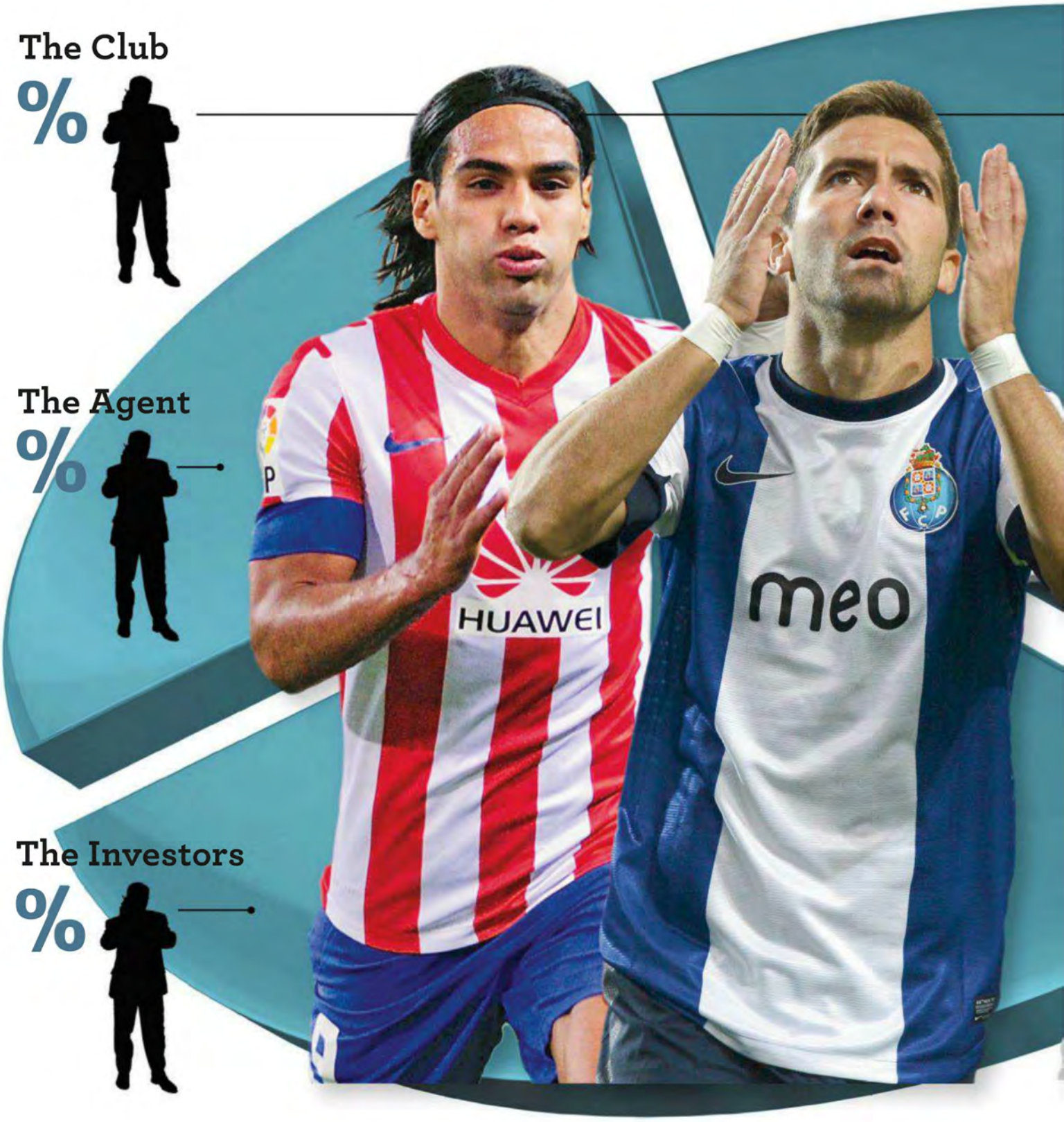
Whenever he is asked about his future, Falcao says the right thing: "I'm happy at Atletico, I have a contract here." But there's always something a bit formulaic about the answer, a bit non-committal. The growing feeling remains that his future lies elsewhere, and probably sooner rather than later. Perhaps not Real Madrid, perhaps England. Chelsea certainly have kept a close eye on him.

"I think I could adapt to England," he says. He has no doubts: he never has.

And nor should anyone else have. Wherever he goes, one thing is for sure: when he gets there, Radamel Falcao will do what he always does: score goals. Lots of goals. WS

On a mission...celebrating his goal against Chile in September's World Cup qualifier as Colombia set their sights on Brazil 2014

Slice of the action



Football's authorities are moving to restrict investors, agents and clubs from cashing in on players through third-party ownership. Gavin Hamilton, Jon Cotterill and Ben Shave report

The career of Radamel Falcao will take another upward turn in January or next summer if, as expected, Atletico Madrid can strike a lucrative contract deal with a Premier League club. Falcao's buyout fee stands at €60million* – but Atletico will not see all of that fee. As with every previous transfer involving Falcao, a third party will benefit from the deal.

An investment fund, widely believed to be closely connected to the Gestifute agency owned by Falcao's agent Jorge Mendes, originally helped Atletico to fund the €40m signing of the Colombian from Porto in summer 2011. The payback for their investment will be a sizeable chunk of the fee.

Third-party ownership (TPO) – where a proportion of a player's registration and economic rights are held by a party other than his club – is a growing problem for the European game.

TPO has been banned by the Premier League and Ligue 1 in France, and Europe's governing body UEFA – under pressure from the English and French – is currently discussing whether clubs in European competition should be banned from fielding players owned by third parties.

"It's mainly a South American problem," claimed UEFA president Michel Platini in Monaco after the Champions League draw at the end of August. Yet even as Platini was speaking, Russian champions Zenit were preparing to sign Brazilian striker Hulk from Porto, a club who, along with their main domestic rivals Sporting Lisbon and Benfica, regularly sign players using funds from third-party investors.

Zenit insist they paid no more than €40m to Porto for Hulk – the same fee as paid to Benfica for Belgium midfielder Axel Witsel. But when documents are eventually released in Portugal, they are expected to show that Hulk's agent, Juan Figger has retained a 15 per cent stake in the player.

TPO may be banned in England and France but it is still allowed in Russia, Spain, Italy, Germany and Portugal.

While negotiations for Hulk's transfer were being concluded, Tottenham Hotspur were reflecting on their failure to sign Portugal midfielder Joao Moutinho. Spurs had been prepared to pay a record fee to Porto, but a last-minute objection from a third-party investor blocked the deal.

TPO can be hugely profitable for investors. When Brazil international Oscar joined Chelsea in the summer, the player's family and his agent Giuliano Bertolucci shared 25 per cent of the player's economic rights, which Chelsea had acquired for £25m.

When another Brazilian, Lucas Moura, moves to Paris Saint-Germain in January, his agent Wagner Ribeiro will receive an undisclosed share of the €40m fee. Ribeiro, once agent to Kaka and Robinho, will also cash in when Neymar finally moves from Santos to Europe. Neymar's current contract runs until July 2014. If he leaves before then, Ribeiro receives 10 per cent of the fee.

> Banned in England and France, TPO is still allowed in Russia, Spain, Italy, Germany and Portugal

The long game

Other third-party investors are happy to play a longer game. DIS Esporte, having acquired 55 per cent of Paulo Henrique Ganso for €2.1m, received nothing when the midfielder moved from Santos to Sao Paulo in September. Instead, they increased their share of his economic rights to 68 per cent and will hope to cash in when the player moves to Europe at some date in the future.

While frowned upon in Europe, TPO is a business model that has developed out of necessity in South America.

Leading Brazilian clubs have been flexing their economic muscle more than ever of late. As well as hanging on to their young stars for longer periods, they

** deals done in Euros and dollars are stated as such; others are converted to pounds*

have a new-found ability to attract big names such as Clarence Seedorf and Diego Forlan. Consequently, the results have come on the pitch and the last three Libertadores Cups have been won by Brazilian teams.

The force driving this success is the myriad investors who are bankrolling the clubs. Part ownership of players by third parties has become the norm. It's a set-up that can be baffling and chaotic – and has also made some transfer deals extremely complicated.

Arguably, there are two prime movers that have helped bring about the current situation: the clubs' inability to drag in sufficient funds, and the Pele Law of 1998.

Despite a potential fan base running into millions in some cases, Brazilian clubs have always been strapped for cash. Until recently, most earned relatively little from TV coverage. Attendances at games are low and income from club merchandise is reduced thanks to the availability of non-official products. The result is that most clubs have not got the means to stay afloat and invest in players.

> Part ownership of players has become the norm in countries such as Brazil

The doorway for investors swung open with the introduction of the Pele Law in March 1998. Although more extensive, the law can be compared to the Bosman ruling in Europe. Brazilian clubs were slow to react to the changes, but players' agents were not. The ramifications hit home when Ronaldinho signed a pre-contract with Paris Saint-Germain in 2001 and left Gremio for free. After an acrimonious dispute, the French club eventually stumped up less than $5m.

Sitting pretty...Neymar's agent Ribeiro will get 10 per cent of the transfer fee if the player is sold before the 2014 World Cup

The investors' role

Former Arsenal midfielder Edu Gaspar is now director of football at Corinthians. He has seen Brazilian football adapt and recognises the role investors can play.

"There are times when the current business model becomes important for Corinthians," he explains. "In 2007, the club was relegated. The following year we were promoted but were in a fragile financial situation. The investors helped Corinthians sign the players we wanted.

"Obviously, they were looking to get a good return from the players they had put in a big club like Corinthians. But they made the deals possible."

Gaspar also acknowledges that dealing with third parties can be tricky: "Nowadays, investors are often agents, so they have an interest in buying part of their player's economic rights, and try to keep hold of this share. So even though Corinthians may want to buy 100 per cent of a player's rights, the investor often doesn't want to sell as he knows that he may get more money in the future. If we don't come to some arrangement with the investor, we may miss out on the deal."

Doing well...ex-Arsenal midfielder Edu is director of football at Corinthians

While the initial outlay is small, the downside is the poor return when players are sold. But the major area of concern is about who has the real power over the player.

The Pele Law has clear rules on "control" and "influence" of players and prohibits investors from having any role at a club. But Gaspar says he's not concerned about possible interference, explaining: "We have a good legal team. The deals are well constructed and everything is made clear what [the investors'] role is. We don't have to worry because we're well protected."

Third-party investors have now swamped the market in Brazil. Pedro Zanette Alfonsin, a lawyer and coordinator at the Grupo de Estudos de Direito Desportivo (Sports Law Study Group), says: "There are many companies that hold economic rights. Big names like DIS and BMG represent less than 50 per cent of the market. Normally, the rights start off in the hands of agents or intermediaries. Sometimes part of the rights stay with the player or his family."

There are large profits to be had by the major investors. Banco Minas Gerais (BMG) have put a lot of money into Brazilian football since 2008, but have also made large profits. BMG were reported to have invested £3.5m in 10 players at Corinthians in 2010. They loaned just under £8m to Palmeiras, and

Neymar (Santos)

The registration of the Brazilian striker is split between his club Santos, investment group DIS and TEISA (Terceira Estrela Investimentos) – a company that was set up by a group of Santos fans who put in cash in exchange for a share of the player's rights.

The curious case of Hulk

The Brazilian striker has moved from his home country to Russia, via Japan, Uruguay and Portugal. Throughout, his agent Juan Figger is believed to have retained a stake in his registration.

1 Like many Brazilian players, Hulk left his home country at an early age in search of a club, in his case Japan's Kawasaki Frontale

2 In 2008, he returned to South America, "joining" Uruguayan club Rentistas. Hulk did not play for them but Rentistas received a fee from Porto for 50 per cent of his economic rights.

3 During four seasons in Portugal, Porto held 85 per cent of Hulk's economic rights, with his agent Juan Figger retaining the other 15 per cent.

4 This summer, Zenit paid Porto €40m for an 85 per cent stake in Hulk. Figger is believed to have retained his 15 per cent stake.

Joao Moutinho (Porto)

Porto sold a 37.5 per cent stake in the midfield player to Mamers BV for €4.2m, but later teamed up with Soccer Invest Fund (SIF) to buy back the stake. Porto took back 22.5 per cent, leaving SIF with a 15 per cent stake, for which it paid €1.67m.

were also backing Sao Paulo at an annual fee said to be around £8m. BMG had 25 per cent of Oscar's economic rights when he moved to Chelsea.

DIS were reported to own part of around 20 players at Santos, including 25 per cent of Wesley Lopes who moved to Werder Bremen for £8m, 25 per cent of Andre Ribeiro who joined Dynamo Kiev for £5.5m, and 37 per cent of Danilo da Silva who went to Porto for £10.5m. DIS also have 40 per cent of Neymar's economic rights.

In 2008, Traffic paid Coritiba £1.8m for Henrique and placed the defender at Palmeiras. Five months later, the investors sold him to Barcelona for £8m. Traffic also profited when Hernanes moved to Lazio, earning 17 per cent of the £11m fee paid to Sao Paulo.

Clearing house

Although Spain, Italy and increasingly England are popular destinations for Brazilian players, Portugal remains the clearing house for most of those who move to Europe. A shared language is an obvious reason for the close relationship but the country's biggest clubs are also used to dealing with third-party investors and, indeed, use such investors to fund their activities.

Last month, Sporting Lisbon released their latest set of accounts, covering the 2011-12 campaign up to and including June 30. There were a number of worrying headlines, including a total loss of over €45m, but it was page 99 that arguably held the greatest concern of all. According to the document – the publication of which is required by company law – the club owned the full registrations of just four of what they termed their 26 "main players". Ownership of the rest had been divided up among an array of third parties.

The news led to an extended feature in the *Publico* newspaper, and a number of online articles, but the reality is that third-party ownership has long been part of Portuguese football's cultural and financial fabric.

> Sporting Lisbon were found to own the full registration of just four of what they have termed their 26 "main players"

Given that the country is currently gripped by a profound economic crisis, this is perhaps unsurprising. Keeping the wolves from the door has replaced long-term planning at even the wealthiest clubs, to say nothing of those who do not have big support, individually

negotiated TV rights deals or prize money from European competition.

However, framing the practice in the current economic context would not be entirely accurate. The origins of third-party ownership in Portugal can be found in the establishment of the imaginatively named First Portuguese Football Players Fund over a decade ago, which had a stake in the careers of Hugo Viana, Cristiano Ronaldo and Deco, to name just three. The fund was closed in 2008 after falling foul of new FIFA regulations, but its legacy lives on through the Benfica Stars Fund, the Sporting Portugal Fund and Quality Football Ireland Limited.

Funds involved in third-party ownership in Portugal can be broadly divided into two categories: those with roots in the country's banking sector, and those that are more international in outlook.

However, a link can always be found. Amsterdam-based Mamers BV, the company that until August 2011 owned 37.5 per cent of Joao Moutinho, only has one shareholder, but lists a former Porto director, a former Porto youth player and a known associate of Porto president Pinto da Costa as directors. It is through personal relationships such as these that the clubs retain control (or at least the illusion of it) over their playing assets.

Loss of future transfer fees, external influence on results and manipulation of sporting "truth" are all potential by-products of third-party ownership. Yet the Portuguese federation are unwilling – or unable – to pry back the rock. And with the Comissao do Mercado de Valores Mobiliarios, which regulates publicly-traded companies, only sporadically interested in demanding further information from clubs, the practice seems entrenched in the Portuguese game.

Growing threat

It is against this backdrop that UEFA is attempting to restrict the activities of third-party investors. Earlier this year, UEFA general secretary Gianni Infantino admitted: "This kind of player ownership is a growing threat. We will ourselves look into this matter because it cannot continue in this manner."

The issue of TPO has been discussed by UEFA's Professional Football Strategy Council, the body which advises the executive committee, but a ban on TPO would appear to be some way off.

Instead, UEFA has tightened its Financial Fairplay regulations to take account of TPO. Clubs must declare any player contracts that have third-party owners, and any profits from third-party deals cannot be used in a club's accounts to balance the books.

Such a move will help to level the playing field with respect to Financial Fairplay, but clubs who use third-party investors to fund transfers – such as Atletico Madrid in the case of Falcao – will still have an advantage over clubs who fund transfers in full themselves.

In 2008, the Premier League banned third-party deals following the case of Carlos Tevez. The ban was extended to the Football League and, in 2011, QPR were fined for fielding midfielder Alejandro Faurlin.

Such action has deterred possible third-party investors. The Hero Fund, an investment company backed by Middle Eastern money and advised by Alan Hansen, hit the buffers after the Premier League questioned legitimacy of its third-party investments.

UEFA's recent actions follow a tightening of international regulations by FIFA in 2008. The world governing body did not ban investors from buying stakes in players, but insisted that they have no control over when they can play or when they are bought and sold. This has allowed third-party investors to continue operating – often appearing to be one step ahead of the regulators.

Jorge Mendes, the dominant agent in Portugal and Spain, representing most of Portugal's national team and many key figures at Real Madrid – including Cristiano Ronaldo and Jose Mourinho – has close links to the Quality Football Ireland investment company (QFI). The Jersey-based fund also counted former Manchester United and Chelsea chief executive Peter Kenyon among its advisors.

Quality Sports Investments (QSI), another fund closely linked to QFI was involved in a controversial deal to transfer goalkeeper Roberto from Benfica to Zaragoza in 2011. At the time, Zaragoza were heavily in debt to the tune of €110m and had applied for voluntary administration. QSI helped provide the funds to allow the €8.6m deal to go through.

Another Mendes client, the Portuguese striker Hugo Almeida, moved from Werder Bremen to Besiktas in 2011, but supporters of the Turkish side have been angered to learn that their club will not benefit from a future transfer fee because of a complex third-party arrangement.

Outside of Europe, there is growing

Ricky Van Wolfswinkel (Sporting Lisbon)

50% Quality Football Ireland Limited

35% Sporting Lisbon

15% Sporting Portugal Fund

Sporting signed the Dutch striker from Utrecht for €5m in June 2011 and sold a 50 per cent stake to QFI in September 2011 for €2.537m. Sporting then sold a further 15 per cent to Sporting Portugal Fund for €975,000 in January 2012.

Precedent...third-party deals were banned in England after Tevez joined West Ham United

Clubs who use third-party investors to fund transfers still have an advantage

No benefit...Besiktas will not profit from a future sale of Almeida

pressure to take action against clubs which act as one-off "clearing houses" for transferring agent-owned players.

Earlier this year, FIFA announced an investigation into the activities of Uruguay's Club Atletico Rentistas, a small Montevideo outfit which, according to calculations by Bloomberg News, had participated in $56m worth of deals since 1999. It emerged that Rentistas were paid a monthly retainer fee for signing players who were then loaned on to other clubs without having played a match for Rentistas.

In the case of Brazilian striker Hulk, Rentistas received €19m from selling 90 per cent of the rights of Hulk to Porto in two batches in 2008 and 2011, according to papers filed by Porto at the time.

Greater transparency

FIFA's new Transfer Matching System is supposed to provide greater transparency in such international transfer dealings, but often little information can be obtained about some of the companies involved in third-party deals.

For Gool, a company based in Rochdale, provided finance for Porto to sign Brazilian striker Walter from Rentistas in 2010. London-based Pearl Design Holding bought 25 per cent of Walter's economic rights for €2.1m, according to Porto. Yet both For Gool and Pearl Design appeared to be "letterbox companies" who decline to respond to questions from the media.

While greater transparency into third-party deals may be hard to obtain, another difficulty for football's authorities will be dealing with finance companies preying on vulnerable clubs.

In 2009, English second-tier side Crystal Palace, borrowed £5m from Agilo, a London-based hedge fund that specialised in dealing with "distressed businesses". The loan was secured on Palace's assets, most notably the contracts of their players. When it appeared that Palace would not be selling players in the January 2010 transfer window, and so be in a position to repay the loan, Agilo forced the club into administration.

The Football League dismissed suggestions that Palace had acted in contravention of the ban on third-party ownership by securing finance on the back of player contracts because Agilo did not technically own a share of the players. However, the then Palace owner Simon Jordan may well have been ahead of his time in suggesting a way for third-party investors to circumvent regulation in the future.

In the battle between football and international finance, sport rarely emerges as the winner. WS

THIRD PARTY OWNERS – THE KEY PLAYERS

International...Argentina defender Garay

Benfica Stars Fund

Owns stakes in a number of Benfica players, including Argentinians Ezequiel Garay (10 per cent, acquired for €1.175m) and Nicolas Gaitan (20 per cent, €2.025m), and Paraguayan striker Oscar Cardozo (20 per cent, €4m).

Banco Minas Gerais (BMG)

A major investor in Brazilian football, with sponsorships and player investments at 12 of the first division clubs. It held 25 per cent of Oscar's economic rights when he moved to Chelsea this summer.

Summer mover...Oscar

Gol Football Luxembourg

Purchased a 35 per cent stake in Porto's latest Colombian protégé James Rodriguez for €2.55m.

Hot prospect...Rodriguez

DIS Esporte

Reported to own part of around 20 current and former players at Santos, including Neymar (40 per cent, acquired for €1.98m) and Paulo Henrique Ganso (55% for €2.1m, recently increased stake to 68%)

Increased stake...Ganso

Quality Football Ireland

Jersey-based company which has had a number of different guises (including Quality Sports Investments) and enjoys close links to Jorge Mendes' Gestifute agency. Owns 50 per cent stakes in Sporting's Elias (acquired for €3.85m) and Ricky Van Wolfswinkel (€2.537m) among others and also has players at Braga, Besiktas and Spain's Zaragoza.

Soccer Invest Fund

One of Portugal's leading found. Owns 15 per cent stakes in Joao Moutinho (€1.67m) and Juan Manuel Iturbe (€1.06m)

Wanted...Iturbe

Sporting Portugal Fund

Fund dedicated to Sporting Lisbon players and has helped raise money for the Lisbon club.

Traffic Sports

Said to have 90 Brazilian players on their books, either through Desportivo Brasil, a club designed to develop and sell players, or through the Cedro Participacoes, an investment fund.

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La Bombonera
Buenos Aires

Peterjon Cresswell visits the home of Argentinian giants Boca Juniors

Fiery, intimate and incredibly loud, La Bombonera is a football stadium like no other. Vibrations caused by fans jumping up and down, almost on top of each other, add to the din – and you don't just hear the excitement, you feel it pulsing through your body.

Home of Boca Juniors, the Estadio Alberto J Armando, to give the stadium its official title, houses just under 50,000 fans in its steep, three-level tiers which are set tight around a pitch that is the smallest minimal length according to FIFA regulations.

This is no 21st-century superdome providing a safe, sanitised day out for all the family by a shopping mall on the city outskirts. Instead, this is a real football ground, with benches for those who require them (many fans stand), whose location and decoration reflect a history and tradition as colourful as its signature tones of bright blue and yellow.

The look is said to have come from a Swedish freighter, the Drottning Sophia, bearing its national colours, which docked at La Boca – the surrounding harbour area from which the club take their name.

The local area was home to many Italian immigrants, mainly Genoese, and five of them founded the club at Plaza Solis in 1905. Apart from a brief sojourn in faraway Wilde in 1914, Boca have stayed close to home ever since.

After setting up camp on the corner of Calle Brandsen and Calle del Crucero, today named Del Valle Iberlucea, Boca moved to their current home in 1931, buying 20,000 square metres of land with a view to building a new stadium. The tender to design it was won by Trieste-born architect Viktor Sulcic, a Slovene, in collaboration with Raul Bes and Jose Luis Delpini. Their original blueprint called for four stands, although only three were ever built.

First stone

The first stone was laid on February 18, 1938, in the presence of Argentinian president Agustin Pedro Justo. Work began in earnest that August and the stadium was opened two years later, on May 25, 1940 with a friendly between Boca and San Lorenzo.

Expansion continued and a second tier, named after a great player of the day, Natalio Pescia, was added in 1941. An extra tier was opened a decade or so later, along with floodlighting, celebrated on February 12, 1953 with a visit by Hajduk Split.

The new three-layered appearance gave the stadium its nickname "La Bombonera" (the chocolate box). Depending on who you believe, the tag was either created by a local journalist, ▸

Riot of colour...the Boca faithful get in the mood for the *superclasico* against River Plate

TICKETS

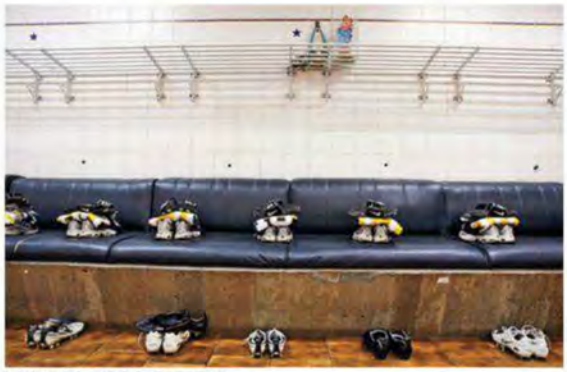
La Bombonera is comprised of three rings (*bandejas*). Visiting fans access the stadium along Juan de Dios Filberto to occupy the highest, third tier of the South (*sur*) or Brandsen End.

Season-ticket holders, (*socios*), are allocated the lowest tier behind each goal – Socios Sur and Socios Norte – with the North End entirely comprised of Boca fans.

The best seats are the Palcos along Iberlucea.

Since November 2011, the club do not sell tickets to the general public and admission is limited and pricey. Agencies such as ticketBis (www.ticketbis.com.ar) sell Category 1 admission along the sideline closest to the pitch and Category 2 around the top ring, over the sideline or behind the North Goal for 1,200 pesos (£158).

Vamos a la Cancha (www.vamosalacancha.com) and Landing Pad BA (www.landingpadba.com) offer foreign visitors tickets, transportation and a pre-match drink.



Match day...the dressing room

Murals...colourful artworks can be seen in the streets surrounding Boca's stadium

Night lights...fans leave La Bombonera after a game against Banfield

Sheer drop... supporters in the stands get a close-up view of the action

perhaps Boca themselves, or relates to a tradition established by Sulcic of taking a box of chocolates to the reunion dinners with Delpini and others who worked on the project. Sulcic, who was also an avid poet and painter of landscapes, died in 1973.

By then, the Bombonera had passed into legend, staging matches such as the 1962 *superclasico* against River Plate, in which Boca clinched the title thanks to Antonio Roma's late penalty save.

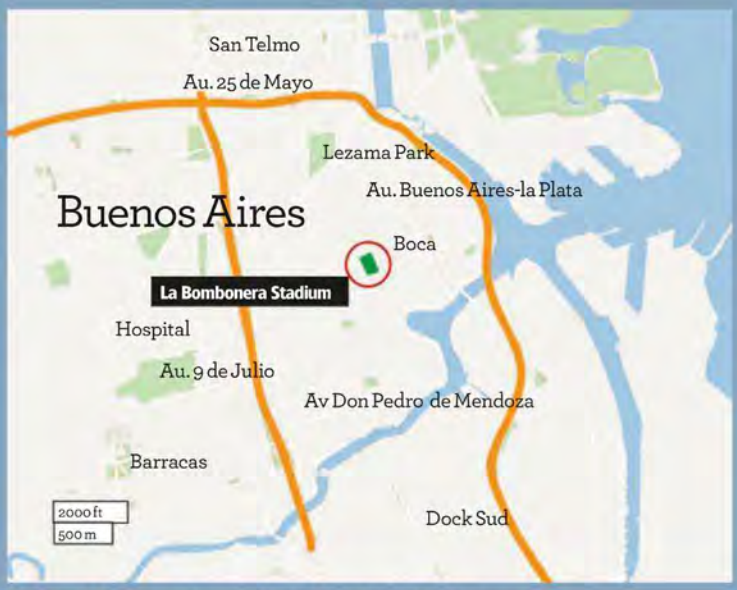
In February 1977, Diego Maradona made his debut for Argentina against Hungary at the Bombonera, where he would later star for Boca. He returned to the club he loved best in 1995, after a career of quite incredible peaks and troughs.

The following year, a small stand was added on Del Valle Iberlucea and this not only gave the venue VIP seats but also its current shape of the letter "D", created by three steep, curved stands and one flat.

Renamed after 1960s club president Alberto J Armando in 2000, the Bombonera features bright murals depicting Boca legends such as Maradona and typical scenes of the neighbourhood.

A megastore and corporate area – to complement Maradona's executive box – may also be under way, but the Boca experience remains real, raw and eminently memorable. WS

National hero... the statue of Diego Maradona in the Boca museum



Close by...La Bombonera is an easy bus ride from the city centre

HOW TO GET THERE

The stadium's official address is Brandsen 805. Many city buses (*colectivos*) serve the immediate area, according to your set-off point. The fare is 2 pesos (26p), paid in change on board. Number 33 goes from Retiro station, number 29 calls at Avenida 9 de Julio, Congreso and Avenida de Mayo. From each of these central hubs, a taxi to Boca should cost between 35 and 50 pesos (£4.62-6.61). Parking near the ground on match days is for season-ticket holders only.

Spoilt for choice...Boca are surrounded by Buenos Aires rivals

EATING & DRINKING

El Obrero (www.bodegonelborero.com.ar) is a real Boca institution, down by the docks at Agustin Caffarena 64, a cash-only affordable eaterie serving juicy Argentinian specialities. Photos of local sporting heroes cover the walls. It's about 600 metres from the ground down Villafane. On the other side of Boca, closer to town, El Viejo Derby (Martin Garcia 401) at the far tip of Lezama Park is more mainstream and pricier. Closer to the Bombonera, Don Carlos, also known as "Carlitos" (Brandsen 699), charges a fair whack for local and Italian dishes on the corner of Brandsen and Del Valle Iberlucea – though a beer shouldn't break the bank. On the first floor of the stadium itself, Restaurante 1905 serves season-ticket holders and corporate clients alike. Be aware that the Boca district after dark can be quite dangerous and street crime is rife – always take a taxi if you're not sure.

MUSEUM & TOUR

The Museo de la Pasion Boquense (www.museoboquense.com) opens daily, from 10am-6pm except on match days. Admission prices are 40 pesos (£5.29) for the museum, 55 pesos (£7.27) with a stadium tour as well, with reductions for children and students. Among the exhibits are Maradona's Quilmes-sponsored no10 shirt, the stadium's foundation stone from 1938, the official guide from the club's first tour of Europe in 1925, and sundry cups, tickets and pennants from a century of Boca action.

There are also any number of audio-visual displays and a call-in at the souvenir shop.

The stadium tour takes you round the press room, changing rooms, tunnel, pitch and the *plateas preferenciales*, the best seats in the house.

Treasure trove...Boca's trophies on display in the museum

Talentscout

Alvaro AMPUERO

CLUB	Universitario
COUNTRY	Peru
POSITION	Full-back/Midfielder
AGE	20 (25.09.92)
CAPS	3
INTERNATIONAL DEBUT	v Chile, March 2012
HONOURS	2011 Under-20 Libertadores Cup

Last year the Peruvian FA hosted the inaugural Under-20 Libertadores Cup, and although home advantage was certainly a factor in Universitario's success, it was clear that the club from Lima had unearthed a promising generation of young talent. But while nine of that winning squad progressed to the senior side, Universitario will not enjoy them for long as their financial problems make selling the only solution.

Left-winger Edison Flores has already joined Villarreal in Spain, while midfielder Andy Polo is on his way to Genoa in January. Joining Polo in Serie A in the new year will be Parma-bound Ampuero.

With his driving runs from left-back, Ampuero has drawn comparisons with former Universitario favourite Juan Manuel Vargas, but he has also been likened to another player from the club's past: international midfielder Jose Del Solar, who was coach until May.

Tall, left-footed and with an imperious air, Ampuero is proficient in both positions, but it could be that central midfield will be his long-term role as it will allow him to impose more of an influence on the game.

> "My new team is not Juventus or Milan but everything [at Parma] is excellent. The structure of the club is incredible"

Wherever he plays, set-pieces are a big part of his armoury. He scored from a free-kick in the Final of the Under-20 Libertadores, against Boca Juniors, and he has been whipping in corners and free-kicks for Universitario ever since his promotion to the first team in September 2011, when he scored on debut, against Deportivo Anzoategui of Venezuela in the Sudamericana Cup. Just over six months later Peru's national coach Sergio Markarian awarded the youngster his first senior cap.

Financial realities

In an ideal world Ampuero would wait a couple of years before moving to Europe, allowing him time to better define his position and footballing identity. However, harsh financial realities dictate otherwise and current Universitario coach Nolberto Solano is clear that his priority is to put the club on a stable footing – and selling off his talented youngsters is a part of that process.

Until his exit in January, Ampuero is hoping to make the most of Solano's experience. "He played in Europe for many years," explains the 20-year-old. "He tells me that it's not easy and that the training sessions are very intense.

"I know it will be tough but I trust in my own ability. My new team is not Juventus or Milan, but everything there is excellent. The structure of the club is incredible.

"I'm sure I'm going to make a name for myself in Europe."

Tim Vickery

Waris MAJEED

CLUB Hacken (Swe)
COUNTRY Ghana
POSITION Forward
AGE 21 (19.09.91)
CAPS 1 (0 goals)
INTERNATIONAL DEBUT v Chile, February 2012

> From being a little rough round the edges, maturity and confidence have now kicked in

More accustomed to living in the shadows of fellow Gothenburg clubs Orgryte and GAIS, Hacken are in with a real chance of winning the Allsvenskan this season. And if the black-and-yellow *Getingarna* (wasps) do win a first title much of the ensuing buzz will centre on the finishing ability of Majeed.

A graduate of Ghana's Right To Dream Academy – a sporting and educational institution set up by English scout Tom Vernon 13 years ago – by the end of September Majeed had scored 19 times in 24 starts, including a memorable five-goal blitz in a 6-0 home thrashing of Norrkoping in May.

Majeed was somewhat hesitant and generally a little rough around the edges during his first two seasons at Hacken, when he managed only three goals. Now, however, he looks totally different, demonstrating speed, intelligent movement, physical power and glacial composure as Hacken look to release him with a quick ball over the top – often from playmaker Martin Ericsson.

Maturity and confidence have kicked in, making him a target for clubs in England (Norwich City) and Germany (Werder Bremen and Hamburg). With the Swedish season ending in November, it does not require an overactive imagination to picture him on the move in the January transfer window.

Nick Bidwell

Tornike OKRIASHVILI

CLUB Illichivets (Ukr, on loan from Shakhtar Donetsk, Ukr)
COUNTRY Georgia
POSITION Midfielder
AGE 20 (12.02.92)
CAPS 5 (1 goal)
INTERNATIONAL DEBUT v Slovenia, November 2010
PREVIOUS CLUBS Olimpi Rustavi, Gagra

> His deployment by national coach Temuri Ketsbaia on the left wing works on every level

Currently on loan at Ukraine top-flight side Illichivets from Shakhtar Donetsk, this versatile attacking-third operative was very much to the fore as Georgia kicked off their World Cup qualifying campaign with a 1-0 home win over Belarus in September.

His winning goal was certainly one for the memory bank, making ground with the ball glued to his feet, holding off a couple of defenders and then leaving them sprawling with an outrageous dummy before finding the far corner.

While he usually plays on his own up front for Illichivets, and spent many of his formative years at Olimpi Rustavi (now known as Metalurg Rustavi) and Gagra as a central-midfield playmaker, Okriashvili tends to be used on the left wing by national coach Temuri Ketsbaia. With his refined technique, vast array of tricks, excellent ball control and an absolute delight in throwing down the gauntlet to full-backs, the deployment works on every level.

Nor is he cowed by superior reputations. In a World Cup tie with Spain this autumn – in which Georgia were unfortunate to lose 1-0 – he never once gave the impression of being awestruck, plainly convinced he belonged in the company of the all-conquering *Roja*.

Nick Bidwell

Wissam BEN YEDDER

CLUB	Toulouse
COUNTRY	France
POSITION	Midfielder
AGE	22 (12.08.90)
PREVIOUS CLUB	Alfortville

While it is no surprise that a certain Zlatan Ibrahimovic topped the Ligue 1 goalscoring chart after the first six games of the new season, what was definitely more eyebrow-raising was the fact that Ben Yedder was breathing down his neck. Playing either as an attacking midfielder or as an out-and-out striker, he notched an impressive four goals in six starts for Toulouse. And this in his first season as a regular under coach Alain Casanova.

"What makes Wissam really exceptional is his finishing ability in the last 20 metres of the pitch," says Casanova.

Born in France to Tunisian parents, Ben Yedder says: "At the start of the campaign the coach told me I was going to get my chance. That really gave me a boost and I wanted to show him that he wasn't wrong to have faith in me. It's been an ideal start for me. But it's only a start."

His pathway to the top of the professional game is far from typical, given that the diminutive youngster started off in futsal, winning two caps for France in the indoor version of the game. But after joining fourth-tier Alfortville in 2009, where he scored nine goals in just half a season, he was spotted by Toulouse and signed a three-year contract in the summer of 2010.

"Lille, Monaco and Sedan were also interested," says Ben Yedder. "But I chose Toulouse because they have a great reputation for bringing youngsters through."

He quickly made an impression, notching 12 goals in 17 games for the reserves. But while it was clear that he had the talent, concerns were voiced as to whether, at 5ft 7in and weighing under 11st, he would have the physical power to make the grade at the top level. Nevertheless, he made his first-team debut in the 2010-11 season, appearing from the bench four times, and then had 10 league starts in the following campaign, scoring once.

"I knew I'd have to work really hard to get a starting place for the new season," he explains. "So I knuckled down through the holidays to make sure I was ready physically."

Clearly the effort has paid off and Ben Yedder's storming start to this campaign saw him called up by France under-21 coach Erick Mombaerts for the European Championship qualifier away to Slovakia in September. He appeared as a substitute as France lost 2-1, although they still ended up top of their group, and three days later he started in the 4-0 friendly win against Chile, in which he missed a penalty.

> "I chose Toulouse because they have a great reputation for bringing youngsters through"
> Wissam Ben Yedder

That, surely, will only be a temporary setback for a player who has already been solicited by Tunisia's national coach Sami Trabelsi to represent the country of his parents. For the moment Ben Yedder is taking his time before making a definitive decision about where his loyalties lie. But with two countries already fighting for his services he looks to have a particularly bright future.

Howard Johnson

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Hazard warning for Chelsea

Although hugely gifted, the Belgium international could cause something of a dilemma for the European champions, explains Jonathan Wilson

Balancing act...Hazard is halted by Juventus defender Lichtsteiner (on ground) during their 2-2 draw at Stamford Bridge in the Champions League

Football tactics are a world without absolutes. Beyond a few basics there are rarely rights and wrongs; it is about balance, about trading off positives for negatives and trying to shift the way the game is played so that it emphasises your team's strengths and your opponent's weaknesses.

Belgium international Eden Hazard was one of the stars of the opening weeks of the Premier League season, his quick feet and imagination highlighting Chelsea's change of approach from dogged solidity to something much more aesthetically pleasing. But his approach was also the reason why his side looked far more vulnerable defensively.

This is no value judgment and this is not to say that Hazard is a good or a bad player. It is to point out that he is a player with a certain set of attributes which bring great benefits but also challenges. This is true of all players, but it seems particularly true of wide men.

> Hazard's movement took him all over, allowing Juve's Lichtsteiner to become a constant menace to Chelsea

In his book on the 1990 World Cup, *All Played Out*, Pete Davies asked Chris Waddle why he seemed so much more effective for Marseille than he ever was for England. "You get a marker and you've got a zone – so you haven't got the greatest amount of space to get rid of him," Waddle explained of his situation with his national team.

"You've got to stick in your zone for the system – so sometimes the ball comes and you've just got to pass it off. Then people say, 'oh, he doesn't dribble, he doesn't do what he's doing for [his club side]'."

England played a more rigid system than Marseille – or, indeed, Liverpool.

"I can play for Liverpool," John Barnes told Davies, "and it's like the continentals – they'll have someone in that zone, but not necessarily the same person. So Alan Hansen can go past me and I'll take his position. But here, if Chris comes off the

Chelsea manager Roberto Di Matteo knows he must find a way for his midfield to cover for Hazard

line, or I come off the line, and no one goes into that position, if the full-back doesn't come, then the marker's free."

That was frustrating, both for players and for fans, but it was also logical. Both Liverpool and Marseille were used to dominating games; it didn't really matter if occasionally the opposing full-back found himself in space because the opposition so rarely had meaningful spells of possession. Besides which, generating a structure in which players almost automatically cover for one another is much easier at club level than in the limited time available to coaches in the international game.

Need for balance

Repeatedly this season, Chelsea manager Roberto Di Matteo has spoken of the need for "balance", of how it will take time for his new players to gel. He knows that, if he is to avoid embarrassments like the 4-1 mauling by Atletico Madrid in the UEFA Super Cup, he must find a way for his midfield to cover for Hazard.

The point was illustrated perfectly by UEFA's "heat maps" after Chelsea's 2-2 draw with Juventus in the group stage of the Champions League. While Ramires, who was operating on the right of midfield in a 4-2-3-1, stuck so absolutely to his side of the pitch that it was as though an invisible barrier had been erected from penalty spot to penalty spot, Hazard's movement took him all over. The result was that Juve's left wing-back, Kwadwo Asamoah, offered little in the way of attacking threat, while the right wing-back, Stephan Lichtsteiner, was a constant menace. Hazard, of course, was far more of a danger to Juventus than Ramires was, but the issue is one of balance.

The warning signs were obvious as early as their win over Wigan Athletic on the opening weekend of the season when Chelsea, having raced into a two-goal lead, allowed Wigan to put a constant stream of crosses into their box. In the next game, a 4-2 win at home to Reading, Pavel Pogrebnyak's goal for the visitors stemmed from Garath McCleary finding space on the right, isolating Ashley Cole.

Cole was left exposed again against Arsenal, with Carl Jenkinson regularly getting forward from right-back. Gervinho's goal stemmed from Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain finding space wide on the right as Cole desperately charged back into a space that he might reasonably have expected a midfielder to have occupied.

Hazard is not the only player to present teams with that sort of dilemma. One of the reasons Manchester City capitulated in the final minutes away to Real Madrid in the Champions League group stage was that nobody supported Pablo Zabaleta against Cristiano Ronaldo. Initially it was an issue of David Silva failing to track. Later, as City went to an extremely narrow shape, there was simply nobody else on that flank, That's why Marcelo was able three times to line up shots on goal, and Ronaldo found himself running at Zabaleta time and again.

Ronaldo himself causes coaches a problem because of his reluctance to track back, something that was most obvious in the Champions League Final in 2008 when he scored an early goal but then nearly cost Manchester United the game by letting Michael Essien – who was playing at right-back for Chelsea that day – to regularly surge past him, with one such sortie resulting in Chelsea's equaliser.

With Hazard, of course, it is not just a question of weighing up the benefit against the risk. There are ways of constructing the team to provide cover.

In a 4-2-3-1 it should probably come from the left-sided of the two holding midfielders drifting across when necessary to plug the hole. Earlier in the season Frank Lampard occupied that role for Chelsea, but he is not a natural holder and that perhaps explains why Cole has been left exposed so often. Against Arsenal, John Obi Mikel was the left of the two holders and, in the second half in particular, he was effective in preventing Jenkinson and Oxlade-Chamberlain doubling up on Cole.

No matter what balance Di Matteo achieves, though, Hazard will always represent a potential weakness. In big matches in particular, the question must always be whether his trickery and creativity are worth the risk. WS

Danger man...Ronaldo thrived for Real Madrid against Manchester City

Keir Radnedge

THE INSIDER

The expert view on events off the pitch

Brazil and Russia: two hosts, two strategies

Spread-out World Cup for 2014 but neat venue clusters in 2018

How to do it, how not to do it – with "it" being the World Cup finals. Consider the cases of Brazil 2014 and Russia 2018.

Russia was chosen in December 2010, almost eight years out; Brazil had roughly the same effective notice. The Russians, as technical study leader Harold Mayne-Nicholls had advised them, began work almost immediately; the Brazilians had still barely begun.

The Russians have not demanded any favours from FIFA, they have got on with the job; the Brazilians, hamstrung initially by the self-serving strategies of the departed Ricardo Teixeira, have been permitted vast leeway – hence the declared impatience early this year of both president Sepp Blatter and secretary-general Jerome Valcke, FIFA's World Cup progress-chaser-in-chief.

Valcke vented his irritation again recently at an otherwise low-key press conference which followed a week of FIFA committee meetings. Questioned about the validity of the vari-stage kick-off times, he snapped: "Whatever we are doing it is never right. There are 64 games over 32 days with a number of rest days we have to give them."

The way it will work in Brazil is as follows: group games will be played (all local times) at 1pm, 4pm, 5pm, 6pm, 7pm and 9pm, with knockout matches at 1pm and 5pm. The semi-finals will be played at 5pm with the Final, on July 13, at 4pm. After USA 94, this is the first time the World Cup will be played in different time zones, with Manaus and Cuiaba one hour behind Brasilia. Euro 2012 was played in one-hour differing time zones, between Ukraine and Poland.

Valcke was further irritated by a suggestion that FIFA had put commercial interests ahead of the players' health in choosing 1pm as the earliest kick-off.

He said: "We are playing in all of Brazil because that was the request from Brazil. It's not only a country, it's a continent.

"I cannot even imagine how you [the questioner, a Brazilian journalist] could think we would make a decision thinking about TV and not about the health of the players.

"The first thing we need is to make sure we have the best football and for that every decision takes into consideration the health of the players.

"No commercial consideration is on the top of the list."

Futuristic...an artist's impression of the new Kaliningrad Stadium to be built for World Cup 2018

Blatter to the rescue

At this point Blatter came to Valcke's rescue, reviewing his 37-year FIFA career for evidence that "excellent football and great players play in all conditions". He added: "Let's go back to Mexico. In 1970 and then in 1986 we played at high noon and at 2,800m and the quality of the game did not suffer.

"We don't have the privilege of rugby, where they need at least five days to rest before they can play again. If it's too hot we can stop the game, we can cool down for the intake of beverages. That's how we do take care of the health of the players.

"You know, 25 years ago the referees said it was forbidden to drink water during the match and now this has all been changed because we want to take care of the health of the players

"But you cannot, with 64 matches in 32 days, avoid playing somewhere at one o'clock in the afternoon."

One could, of course, were the World Cup not such a bloated 32-team event. Ideally it needs reducing in size, but that argument was lost long ago so football is stuck with the worst of all possible schedules.

Brazil's host cities all wanted slices of the top-seed cake so that is what FIFA gave them, mistakenly. The travel and conditions argument would be eased had

A long way...with no venue clusters, teams can expect to travel huge distances

Hopeful...(from left) Ronaldo, Valcke and Brazil's organising chief, Jose Maria Marin

FIFA stuck to the original plan for group city clusters. That would have encouraged foreign fans, too. Both players and fans will pay for FIFA's initial acquiescence.

Russia did not even have to be asked as Alexei Sorokin and his team came up with the idea of "clusters" all by themselves. It is interesting, too, to see that the final cut of 2018 host cities includes the Baltic Sea exclave of Kaliningrad as a cluster partner for St Petersburg. Yaroslavl and Krasnodar, meanwhile, have missed out on a stake in the finals which will be played in 12 venues in 11 cities.

> Brazil's host cities all wanted slices of the top-seed cake so that is what FIFA gave them mistakenly

Kaliningrad, formerly Konigsberg in Germany, is closer to Berlin than it is to Moscow which means that it is feasible to make the journey by road from Germany – and hence likely to welcome that nation for the finals.

The four 2018 clusters are:

- Moscow, the only city with two stadiums, namely Luzhniki and Spartak (central cluster).
- St Petersburg and Kaliningrad (Northern cluster).
- Nizhny Novgorod, Kazan, Samara, Saransk and Volgograd (Volga cluster).
- Rostov-on-Don and Sochi (Southern cluster).
- Plus there is the stand-alone city of Yekaterinburg.

The opening match is likely to be set for the new stadium in St Petersburg with the Final in Moscow's Luzhniki – which would therefore become the seventh stadium to have hosted both the Olympic Games and the World Cup Final (after Colombes/Paris, Wembley, Munich/Olympiastadion, Rome/Olimpico, Los Angeles/Pasadena and Berlin).

As for Brazil, the draw for the finals will be staged late next year in Bahia with the opening match on June 12, 2014, in Sao Paulo, and the Final in Rio's Maracana.

The time schedule for 2014 has also exploded Michel Platini's casual assertion that Europe's leagues need halt for "only" five weeks, between mid-November and late December, to accommodate a winter World Cup in Qatar in 2022.

Ten weeks, more like. Just do the maths... **WS**

Organisation...teams will be based at a cluster of venues to reduce travelling time

New ground...Azerbaijan hosts the Women's Under-17 World Cup

Blatter: "Future is still feminine"

Sepp Blatter once, famously, declared that the future of football was feminine. A further step towards that intriguing goal has been the Women's Under-17 World Cup in Azerbaijan. Blatter believes it has sent out a message of historic significance to female footballers right across the Islamic world.

This was the first time the Azeris had hosted a major event linked to the big two international federations: FIFA and the International Olympic Committee.

Results were mixed, with two 11-0 victories recorded in the group stage, against Gambia and hosts Azerbaijan. However, Blatter virtually dismissed these as the price of taking a sporting and cultural step forward.

Reviewing a remarkable year for the women's game, after a two-day meeting in Zurich of the FIFA executive committee, Blatter said: "We had 2.2million tickets sold for the Olympic football tournament including more than 600,000 for the women's tournament – incredible.

"It's a wonderful year for women's football. We have also had the Under-20s in Japan, with victory for the United States and I have just come back from the opening of the Under-17s in Azerbaijan, where they made a wonderful opening ceremony with Cirque du Soleil and Jennifer Lopez – that's brand new for us.

"But what is more important is that we are playing, for the first time, a Women's World Cup, the under-17s, in an Islamic country, and this is a historical moment for our game. It is also a very positive sign for women's football in all cultures and I am sure this will have a great impact all around the world. It shows all women around the world can play football."

Equal participation rights in sport for Muslim women was a significant issue at London 2012 where pressure from IOC saw all nations – for the first time – bring female athletes, most notably conservative Saudi Arabia.

Whether sports authorities should use their power to impose western concepts on different cultures and societies is debatable. Football can say, at least, that over issues such as the headscarf it has sought a gentle compromise which should reap its own reward over time.

6 of the best

Summer signings in eastern Europe

Nick Bidwell profiles half-a-dozen players who moved east during the last transfer window

1 Salomon RONDON

Rubin Kazan (Rus)

When players go unpaid they tend to head for the exit pretty smartly, so it was no surprise when the Venezuelan powerhouse striker reacted to a lack of petrodollars from Malaga's Qatari owners this summer by cashing in his chips and opting instead for a regular pay packet in the south of Russia.

Bought by Rubin Kazan for around £8million, the 23-year-old is now the most expensive Venezuelan player of all time. And while he has a reputation as a scorer of great goals rather than being a great goalscorer, his power, energy and strength in the air should make him a big success in the Russian Premier League.

A star of the 2009 Under-20 World Cup with Venezuela, he had been in Spain since 2008, initially impressing in the second division with Las Palmas before spending two years at Malaga – who made a very nice profit on the £2.8m they invested in him.

2 Lassana DIARRA

Anzhi Makhachkala (Rus)

The decision of this combative and tactically aware defensive midfielder to bid *"adios"* to Real Madrid at the end of August and make a £4million move to the nouveaux riches of the Russian Premier League made perfect sense. After all, having been a deluxe reserve at the Bernabeu for two seasons, the 27-year-old looks certain to be a regular starter for his new club – not forgetting the added bonus of Anzhi agreeing to double what he was earning in Spain with a healthy wage of £5.5m a year.

Since leaving Le Havre in 2005, his career has seen him pitch up at Chelsea, Arsenal and Portsmouth in England before moving to Spain. But the France international takes exception to claims that he is an unashamed gun for hire, arguing: "I've already earned a lot of money in my career and I can only stress that pay was not the decisive factor in me coming to Russia.

"More important was Anzhi's enthusiasm to bring me on board and the prospect of playing with Samuel Eto'o, who I think of as my elder brother."

Often too strong willed and opinionated for his own good – even to the point of telling Real boss Jose Mourinho not to play him out of position at right-back – "Lass" might have to be a little less self-indulgent at Anzhi if he wants to keep in the good books of coach Guus Hiddink.

3 Mario FERNANDES

CSKA Moscow (Rus)

According to Paulo Odone, who is president of Brazilian side Gremio, his club need to sell one star player every season to balance the books, and this year it was the 22-year-old right-back who turned out to be the club's model lifesaver.

Offloaded to CSKA Moscow for £12million, he was a member of the Gremio side that won the Rio Grande do Sul state title in 2010, and a year later he collected a *Bola de Ouro* (golden ball) award for the best player in his position in the national championship, as voted for by the Brazilian magazine *Placar*.

At one time a move to Internazionale or Real Madrid looked on the cards – if only he wasn't so hell-bent on going against the grain.

Shortly after joining Gremio from Sao Caetano in 2009 he went missing for 10 days, eventually being found with relatives in Sao Paulo state, while last year he provoked a controversy by declining a first call-up to the Brazil squad, citing "personal problems and stress". Even *Placar* could not make up its mind about his no-show, opting for a "Hero or deserter?" headline.

"Mario has a unique personality, so much so that when he gets an idea into his head, it's difficult to persuade him to change tack," explains Dino Camargo, who coached him at Sao Caetano.

His new Muscovite employers will be hoping their new arrival remains focused on the job in hand.

4 WILLIAN

Metalist Kharkiv (Ukr)

Despite appearing in eight of Corinthians' 14 matches during their triumphant Libertadores Cup campaign earlier this year, the 26-year-old striker did not stick around long for the celebrations. Just a few days after the club had clinched their first South American title he was on a plane bound for the Ukrainian city of Kharkiv, where ambitious Metalist president Oleksandr Yaroslavsky had a lucrative five-year contract waiting for him to sign.

During his unveiling, Willian spoke eloquently about his new challenge in Europe, the "financial independence" that the move had given him, the help he expected to receive from his new club's extensive band of Brazilian players – Taison, Cleiton Xavier, Marlos and Fininho – and his gratitude for all Corinthians had done for him since moving there from Figueirense early in 2011.

What the newcomer failed to mention was the way his fortunes at Corinthians had fizzled out, going from major contributor in their conquest of the Brazilian championship in 2011 to bench warmer, effectively pushed to the fringes by the emergence of the young front runner Romarinho.

Metalist, a team built on Latin American talent, offer the Brazilian the chance to rebound in style.

5 Axel WITSEL

Zenit (Rus)

The attacking midfielder's father was adamant during the summer that his son would be staying at Benfica for a second season. But money talks in today's corporate-driven game, and even though the Lisbon heavyweights wanted to keep the 23-year-old, when Zenit sensationally slapped more than £30million on the table to trigger a release clause in his contract, there was no point in resisting,

It has been suggested that this was a last-minute impulse buy, but the Russian champions had been tracking the Belgium international for some time, and a few weeks earlier had a £20m offer turned down. Zenit wanted Witsel so badly that, ultimately, they had no qualms about making him – along with Chelsea's Eden Hazard – the most valuable Belgian player ever.

Terek Grozny's Belgian striker Jonathan Legear has said he feels the Russian game will be too physical for the newcomer. But that opinion is unlikely to be shared by many in Portugal. During his time at Benfica he was regularly used in a box-to-box role and he has toughened up considerably, making him now an enthralling mix of technical class and resilience.

6 Marco RUBEN

Dynamo Kiev (Ukr)

In the wake of Villarreal's descent into the Spanish second tier last season, and the subsequent mass exodus of many of the first team, fans of the "Yellow Submarine" hoped against hope that their Argentinian front man would, like midfielders Bruno Soriano and Marcos Senna, stay true to the colours and lead the planned relaunch.

But in the cold light of day the prospect of a Champions League campaign with Dynamo Kiev proved far more compelling than anything Villarreal had to offer the 25-year-old Ruben and he was snapped up in a £4million deal.

Bought from River Plate in January 2008 he had to wait two-and-a-half years to establish himself in Villarreal's starting line-up, spending the intervening years on loan to Recreativo Huelva and with his employer's B team.

Capped once for Argentina – he scored on his debut against Poland in June 2011 – it was only last term that he truly began to look the part in Spain, showcasing his aerial ability, decisive right-footed finishing and trickery on the ball.

However, unfortunately for Villarreal he chose to disembark the Submarine just when he was finally starting to deliver for them.

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Close attention...Shakhtar Donetsk's Willian is closely marked during their Champions League game against Juventus

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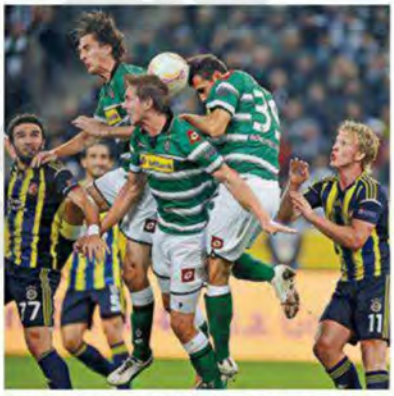

Clash...Borussia Monchengladbach (in green) take on Galatasaray in the Europa League group stage

Blackout...game is cancelled

BRAZIL

Second leg must wait

A Neymar penalty in the third minute of injury time gave Brazil a 2-1 victory over Argentina in the first leg of the Superclasico de las Americas, an annual game featuring players from the two countries' domestic leagues.

Juan Manuel Martinez gave Argentina the lead in Goiania, before Paulinho equalised for the hosts.

The second leg, in Resistencia, was postponed due to a floodlight failure – believed to have been caused by a team bus hitting an electricity trailer on its way into the stadium.

PHILIPPINES

Peace Cup success

The Asian side won their first international tournament for 99 years, beating Guam, Macau and Taiwan to claim the inaugural Philippine Peace Cup. Philippines striker Denis Wolf was the tournament's top scorer with four goals.

The national team's last success was in 1913, when they were crowned champions at the Far Eastern Games.

SUDAN

Goalscorer banned

Sudan's 2-0 win against Zambia in June's World Cup qualifier has been overturned because one of their goalscorers, Saif Ali, was ineligible to play.

FIFA declared the match "lost by forfeit by Sudan" and awarded Zambia a 3-0 victory as Ali should have been serving a suspension.

Internationals

CARIBBEAN CUP

1st round

Group 4

In Bridgetown, Barbados

Sep 23
Aruba 2 (Baten 6, Barradas 30)
Dominican Republic 2 (Ozuna 13, 76)
HT: 2-1. **Ref:** Lancaster (Guy)

Sep 23
Barbados 1 (Miller 35)
Dominica 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Brizan (T&T)

Sep 25
Dominica 3 (C Bertrand 36, K Benjamin 45, 77)
Aruba 2 (Bergen 40, Gomez 55)
HT: 2-1. **Ref:** Clarke (StL)
Sent off: Breinburg (Aruba) 61min

Sep 25
Barbados 0
Dominican Republic 1 (Nunez 80)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Elskamp (Sur)

Sep 27
Dominican Republic 2 (Fana 66, 90+3)
Dominica 1 (Langlais 40)
HT: 0-1
Sent off: C Bertrand (Dominica) 85min

Sep 27
Barbados 2 (Skeete 21, Harte 56)
Aruba 1 (Bergen 32)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Lancaster (Guy)
Sent off: Baten (Aruba) 89min

CARIBBEAN CUP – 1ST RND: GROUP 4 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dom Rep (Q)	3	2	1	0	5	3	7
Barbados[1]	3	2	0	1	3	2	6
Dominica	3	1	0	2	4	5	3
Aruba	3	0	1	2	5	7	1

[1]Barbados will qualify for 2nd round, along with Dominican Republic, if they have a better record than the runners-up in Group 5 (yet to be played)

PHILIPPINE PEACE CUP

In Manila

Sep 25
Taiwan 2 (Lo Chi-en 48, Yang Chao-hsun pen 90)
Macau 2 (Torrao 45, Chan Kin-seng 57)
HT: 0-1

Sep 25
Philippines 1 (Reichelt 81)
Guam 0
HT: 0-0

Sep 27
Taiwan 2 (Lo Chi-an 11, Guerrero og 43)
Guam 0
HT: 2-0

Sep 27
Philippines 5 (Wolf 21, 45, 63, De Murga 48, Reichelt 69)
Macau 0
HT: 2-0

Sep 29
Macau 0
Guam 3 (Lopez 44, 55, Naputi 90+2)
HT: 0-1

Sep 29
Philippines 3 (Wolf 10, Caligdong 35, Porteria 43)
Taiwan 1 (Chang Han 52)
HT: 3-0

PHILIPPINE PEACE CUP – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Philippines	3	3	0	0	9	1	9
Taiwan	3	1	1	1	5	5	4
Guam	3	1	0	2	3	3	3
Macau	3	0	1	2	2	10	1

COUPE DE L'OUTRE-MER

(French Overseas Territories Cup)

In France

Group A

Sep 22 - Versailles
Guadeloupe 13 (Pascal 13, 37, 44, D Mocka 16, Babel 29, Lambourde 51, Bacoul 56, Gotin 63, 73, Zenon 68, 78, 85, Lafortune 75)
Saint-Pierre & Miquelon 0
HT: 5-0. **Att:** 300. **Ref:** Oito (Tah)
Sent off: Eliezer (Guadeloupe) 90min

Sep 22 - Versailles
Reunion 2 (Fontaine 5, Faro 38)
French Guiana 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 300. **Ref:** Fouquet (Mar)

Sep 24 - Saint-Ouen
Reunion 10 (Achelous 3, 28, El Madaghri 16, 45, Vallant 18, Pythie 23, Audouze og 48, Fontaine 69, 76, 80)
Saint-Pierre & Miquelon 0
HT: 6-0. **Att:** 200. **Ref:** Ahamed (May)

Sep 24 - Saint-Ouen
Guadeloupe 4 (D Mocka 8, 26, Pascal 13, Bacoul 45)
French Guiana 2 (Dos Santos 61, 72)
HT: 4-0. **Att:** 600. **Ref:** Ione (Mar)

Sep 26 - Franconville
Reunion 2 (Fontaine 10, 82)
Guadeloupe 1 (D Mocka 60)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 300. **Ref:** Fouquet (Mar)

Sep 26 - Saint-Ouen-l'Aumone
French Guiana 11 (Pigree 5, 11, 44, pen 63, 90, Clet 29, 58, Pikentio pen 76, Sampain pen 80, Lesperance 84, Torvic 89)
Saint-Pierre & Miquelon 1 (Mathiaud 68)
HT: 4-0. **Att:** 50. **Ref:** Oito (Tah)

COUPE DE L'OUTRE-MER – GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts[1]
Reunion	3	3	0	0	14	1	12
Guadeloupe	3	2	0	1	18	4	8
French Guiana	3	1	0	2	13	7	4
St-Pierre & M	3	0	0	3	1	34	0

[1]4pts for a win

Group B

Sep 22 - Issy-les-Moulineaux
Tahiti 1 (Degage 84)
Mayotte 3 (Athoumani 29, 45, 59)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 700. **Ref:** Zabeau (Gdp)
Sent off: Teritau (Tahiti) 81min; Colo Vitta (Mayotte) 87min

Sep 22 - Issy-les-Moulineaux
Martinique 2 (Parsemain 7, 83)
New Caledonia 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 700. **Ref:** Quenet (Reu)

Sep 24 - Corbeil-Essonnes
New Caledonia 0
Mayotte 2 (Athoumani 73, 90)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 150. **Ref:** Prevot (FGu)

Sep 24 - Corbeil-Essonnes
Martinique 2 (Delem 7, Gustan 85)
Tahiti 3 (A Tehau 46, 80, Atani 67)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 700. **Ref:** Madi (May)
Sent off: Berdix (Martinique) 57min; Degage (Tahiti) 89min

Sep 26 - Franconville
New Caledonia 0
Tahiti 1 (Chong Hue 63)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 200. **Ref:** Prevot (FGu)
Sent off: Kayara (New Caledonia) 76min

Sep 26 - Saint-Ouen-l'Aumone
Martinique 3 (Parsemain 29, Tresfield 32, Abaul 48)
Mayotte 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 300. **Ref:** Quenet (Reu)

COUPE DE L'OUTRE-MER – GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts[1]
Martinique	3	2	0	1	7	3	8
Mayotte	3	2	0	1	5	4	8
Tahiti	3	2	0	1	5	5	8
New Caledonia	3	0	0	3	0	5	0

[1]4pts for a win

Group winners qualified for Final, runners-up for 3rd-place match, 3rd-placed teams for 5th-place match and bottom teams for 7th-place match

7th-place match

Sep 28 - Clairefontaine
Saint-Pierre & Miquelon 1 (Delamaire 49)
New Caledonia 16 (*og* 7, Whanyamalla 13, pen 69, Kayara 20, 60, Haeko 24, 28, pen 53, Kabeu 37, Kai 38, 85, Kauma 41, Mercier 48, E Bearune 76, G Bearune 80, Moagou 84)
HT: 0-8. **Att:** 50. **Ref:** Prevot (FGu)
Sent off: Halili (St-Pierre) 56min; Haeko (New Caledonia) 56min

5th-place match

Sep 28 - Clairefontaine
French Guiana 2 (Sophie 34, Clet 60)
Tahiti 1 (Vallar pen 78)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 100. **Ref:** Fouquet (Mar)

3rd-place match

Sep 29 - Saint-Gratien
Guadeloupe 1 (Pascal 75)
Mayotte 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 400. **Ref:** Quenet (Reu)

Final

Sep 29 - Saint-Gratien
Reunion 2 (Fontaine 44, Faro 68)
Martinique 2 (Tresfield 5, Gustan 50)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Jaffredo (Fra)
Reunion 10-9 on pens
Reunion: Pelops - Lionel, Delnard (Achelous 59), Hubert, K'Bidi (Souefou 59), Elcaman, Bador, Faro, Payet, Palany (Siala-Chamba 58), Fontaine.
Sent off: Lionel 35min.
Martinique: Vermignon - Zaire, Anglio, Delem, Bannais, Vitulin, Reuperne (Mainge 79), Gustan, Abaul, Tresfield, Parsemain.

FRIENDLIES

Wednesday, September 12

Sep 12 - Bangkok
Thailand 2 (Surachart 70, Teerathorn pen 85)
Laos 1 (Saysana 8)
HT: 0-1

Saturday, September 15

Sep 15 - Surabaya
Indonesia 0
Vietnam 0

Sep 15 - Curepipe
Mauritius 1 (Estazie 45)
Reunion 1 (Fontaine 59)
HT: 1-0

Sunday, September 16

Sep 16 - Cayenne
French Guiana 1 (Pigree 85)
Haiti 2 (Louis 27, Augustin 62)
HT: 0-1

Wednesday, September 19

*Sep 19 - Goiania**
Brazil 2 (Paulinho 26, Neymar pen 90+3)
Argentina 1 (Martinez 20)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Amarilla (Par)
Brazil: Jefferson - Lucas Marques, Dede, Rever, Fabio Santos, Ralf, Paulinho, Jadson (Thiago Neves 62), Lucas Moura (Wellington Nem 76), Luis Fabiano (Leandro Damiao 68), Neymar.
Argentina: Ustari - Peruzzi, Lopez (Vergini 73), Dominguez, Desabato, C Rodriguez, M Rodriguez, Brana, Guinazu, Martinez (Somoza 87), Barcos (Funes Mori 76).
**1st leg of the 2-leg Superclasico de las Americas contest between the two countries*

Thursday, September 20

Sep 20 - Kathmandu
Nepal 1 (Silwal 60)
Bangladesh 1 (Z Hossain 43)
HT: 0-1

Wednesday, September 26

Sep 26 - Bandar Seri Begawan
Brunei 0
Indonesia 5 (Irfan pen 23, 50, 72, Vendry 43, Hendra 63)
HT: 0-2

Friday, September 28

Sep 28 - Muscat
Oman 2 (Said 73, Saleh 85)
Yemen 1 (*scored* 84)
HT: 0-0

ESM TEAM OF THE MONTH SEPTEMBER 2012

European Sports Media

HOW IT WORKS

Every month, journalists from each member of the European Sports Media group select their first XI based on the best individual performances from Europe's top competitions. For details of how each ESM member voted, visit worldsoccer.com/esm11

ESM – EUROPEAN SPORTS MEDIA

The members of ESM are:

A Bola (Portugal)
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TIPSbladet (Denmark)
World Soccer (England)

More details of votes

SEASON RANKINGS

Cumulative votes through the season

at worldsoccer.com/votes

GOALKEEPERS

Rene Adler (Hamburg)	3 votes
Gianluigi Buffon (Juventus)	2
Morgan De Sanctis (Napoli)	2
Manuel Neuer (Bayern Munich)	2
Wilfredo Caballero (Malaga)	1
Petr Cech (Chelsea)	1

DEFENDERS

Ashley Cole (Chelsea)	5
Giorgio Chiellini (Juventus)	3
Dante (Bayern Munich)	3
Philipp Lahm (Bayern Munich)	3
Dani Alves (Barcelona)	2
Leighton Baines (Everton)	2
Andrea Barzagli (Juventus)	2
Paolo Cannavaro (Napoli)	2
David Luiz (Chelsea)	2
Rafael (Manchester United)	2
Jan Vertonghen (Tottenham Hotspur)	2
Holger Badstuber (Bayern Munich)	1
Leonardo Bonucci (Juventus)	1
Hugo Campagnaro (Napoli)	1
Branislav Ivanovic (Chelsea)	1
Timm Klose (Nuremberg)	1
Joleon Lescott (Manchester City)	1
Rudy Mater (Valenciennes)	1
Kyriakos Papadopoulos (Schalke)	1
Pepe (Real Madrid)	1
Mamadou Sakho (Paris Saint-Germain)	1
Thiago Silva (Paris Saint-Germain)	1
John Terry (Chelsea)	1

MIDFIELDERS

Xavi (Barcelona)	5
Eden Hazard (Chelsea)	4
Andrea Pirlo (Juventus)	4
Arturo Vidal (Juventus)	3
Gareth Bale (Tottenham Hotspur)	2
Santi Cazorla (Arsenal)	2
Angel Di Maria (Real Madrid)	2
Marouane Fellaini (Everton)	2
Szabolcs Huszti (Hanover)	2
Isco (Malaga)	2
Toni Kroos (Bayern Munich)	2
Sebastian Giovinco (Juventus)	1
Jesus Navas (Sevilla)	1
Marco Reus (Borussia Dortmund)	1
Arjen Robben (Bayern Munich)	1
Yaya Toure (Manchester City)	1

FORWARDS

Radamel Falcao (Atletico Madrid)	10
Zlatan Ibrahimovic (Paris Saint-Germain)	9
Lionel Messi (Barcelona)	6
Mario Mandzukic (Bayern Munich)	4
Edinson Cavani (Napoli)	2
Cristiano Ronaldo (Real Madrid)	2
Robin Van Persie (Manchester United)	2

SOCCERWAY
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ARMENIA

Keeper is spot on

Mika goalkeeper Gevorg Kasparov scored the winning spot kick as the league leaders beat defending champions Ulisses on penalties to win the Armenian Super Cup. The game had finished goalless after extra time.

BELARUS

Winning start

Without a win in any of their 12 previous Champions League group games, BATE Borisov got this season's campaign off to a flier with victories away to Lille and at home to last season's runners-up, Bayern Munich.

BULGARIA

Testing times

Lokomotiv Plovdiv owner Veselin Mareshki made his club's players and coaches take lie-detector tests after they lost 1-0 to Botev Vratsa, who were bottom of the table after five consecutive defeats.

With the Bulgarian Football Union opening an investigation into claims of match fixing

New boss...Ivanov of Plovdiv

101 **Manchester United boss Alex Ferguson became the first manager to record a century of Champions League victories**

Club Results

EUROPE

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Group A

Sep 18

Dinamo Zagreb (Cro) 0
Porto (Por) 2 (Gonzalez 41, Defour 90+2)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 4,683. **Ref:** Orsato (Ita)
Dinamo: Kelava - Vida, Tonel, Simunic, Pivaric, Ademi (Beqiraj 58), Calello (Kovacic 80), Brozovic, Sammir, Rukavina (Carrasco 67), Cop.
Porto: Helton - Miguel Lopes, Maicon, Otamendi, Alex Sandro, Gonzalez, Defour, Joao Moutinho, Varela (Atsu 72), Martinez (Kleber 78), Rodriguez (Mangala 88).

Sep 18

Paris Saint-Germain (Fra) 4 (Ibrahimovic pen 19, Thiago Silva 29, Alex 32, Pastore 90+1)
Dynamo Kiev (Ukr) 1 (Miguel Veloso 87)
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 42,536. **Ref:** Kuipers (Hol)
PSG: Sirigu - Jallet, Alex, Thiago Silva (Camara 81), Maxwell, Chantome, Verratti, Matuidi, Pastore, Ibrahimovic (Lavezzi 73), Menez (Nene 77).
Dynamo: Koval - Danilo Silva, Mykhalyk (Betao 46), Khacheridi, Taiwo, Miguel Veloso, Harmash (Vukojevic 53), Yarmolenko, Kranjcar (Husiev 77), Raffael, Brown.

Oct 3

Dynamo Kiev 2 (Husiev 3, Pivaric og 33)
Dinamo Zagreb 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 47,804. **Ref:** Atkinson (Eng)
Dynamo: Shovkovskyi - Danilo Silva, Mykhalyk, Khacheridi, Taiwo, Vukojevic, Miguel Veloso, Yarmolenko (Mehmedi 80), Kranjcar (Harmash 46), Husiev (Raffael 83), Brown.
Dinamo: Kelava - Vida, Tonel, Simunic, Pivaric, Calello (Cop 46), Ademi, Brozovic, Sammir (Carrasco 78), Kovacic, Beqiraj (Rukavina 62).

Oct 3

Porto 1 (Rodriguez 83)
Paris Saint-Germain 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 36,509. **Ref:** Webb (Eng)
Porto: Helton - Danilo, Maicon, Otamendi, Alex Sandro, Gonzalez (Defour 81), Fernando, Joao Moutinho, Varela (Atsu 73), Martinez, Rodriguez (Mangala 90+1).
PSG: Sirigu - Van der Wiel (Jallet 62), Thiago Silva, Sakho, Maxwell, Chantome, Verratti, Matuidi, Nene, Menez (Lavezzi 73; Pastore 80), Ibrahimovic.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Porto	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
PSG	2	1	0	1	4	2	3
Dynamo Kiev	2	1	0	1	3	4	3
Dinamo Zagreb	2	0	0	2	0	4	0

Group B

Sep 18

Montpellier (Fra) 1 (Belhanda pen 9)
Arsenal (Eng) 2 (Podolski 16, Gervinho 18)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 27,522. **Ref:** Velasco Carballo (Spa)
Montpellier: Jourdren - Bocaly, Yanga-Mbiwa, Hilton, Bedimo, Saihi, Estrada (Herrera 78), Cabella, Belhanda, Mounier (Ait-Fana 68), Camara (Stambouli 78).
Arsenal: Mannone - Jenkinson, Mertesacker, Vermaelen, Gibbs, Diaby, Arteta, Gervinho, Cazorla (Coquelin 90), Podolski (Walcott 90), Giroud (Ramsey 76).

Sep 18

Olympiakos (Gre) 1 (Abdoun 58)
Schalke (Ger) 2 (Howedes 41, Huntelaar 59)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 30,922. **Ref:** Fernandez Borbalan (Spa)
Olympiakos: Megyeri - Torosidis, Manolas, Contreras, Holebas, Modesto (Greco 69), Maniatis, Abdoun (Mitroglou 69), David Fuster (Ibagaza 58), Paulo Machado, Djebbour.
Schalke: Unnerstall - Howedes, Papadopoulos, Matip, Fuchs, Jones (Hoger 90), Neustadter, Farfan (Draxler 90+4), Holtby, Barnetta (Afellay 79), Huntelaar.

Oct 3

Arsenal 3 (Gervinho 42, Podolski 56, Ramsey 90+4)
Olympiakos 1 (Mitroglou 45+1)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 60,034. **Ref:** Moen (Nor)
Arsenal: Mannone - Jenkinson, Koscielny, Vermaelen, Gibbs, Arteta, Coquelin, Oxlade-Chamberlain (Walcott 71), Cazorla, Podolski (Ramsey 80), Gervinho (Giroud 80).
Olympiakos: Megyeri - Diakite (Ibagaza 73), Manolas, Contreras, Holebas, Siovas, Maniatis, Greco (Abdoun 67), David Fuster, Paulo Machado (Pantelic 81), Mitroglou.

Oct 3

Schalke 2 (Draxler 26, Huntelaar pen 53)
Montpellier 2 (Ait-Fana 13, Camara 90)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 50,004. **Ref:** Karasev (Rus)
Schalke: Unnerstall - Uchida, Papadopoulos, Howedes, Fuchs, Neustadter, Hoger, Draxler (Afellay 55), Holtby (Barnetta 84), Pukki (Farfan 66), Huntelaar.
Montpellier: Jourdren - Bocaly, Yanga-Mbiwa, Hilton, Stambouli, Saihi, Estrada (Marveaux 68), Belhanda (Tinhan 68), Cabella, Ait-Fana (Congre 55), Camara. *Sent off: Bocaly 52min.*

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Arsenal	2	2	0	0	5	2	6
Schalke	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Montpellier	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
Olympiakos	2	0	0	2	2	5	0

Group C

Sep 18

Malaga (Spa) 3 (Isco 3, 76, Saviola 13)
Zenit St Petersburg (Rus) 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 23,670. **Ref:** Clattenburg (Eng)
Malaga: Caballero - Jesus Gamez, Demichelis, Weligton, Monreal, Eliseu, Portillo (Iturra 46), Camacho, Isco, Joaquin (Duda 85), Saviola (Santa Cruz 62).
Zenit: Malafeev - Anyukov, Bruno Alves, Lombaerts, Lukovic (Bystrov 40), Shirokov (Lumb 86), Denisov, Fayzulin, Zyryanov (Djordjevic 75), Hulk, Kerzhakov.

Sep 18

Milan (Ita) 0
Anderlecht (Blg) 0
Att: 27,593. **Ref:** Collum (Sco)
Milan: Abbiati - De Sciglio, Mexes, Bonera (Yepes 74), Antonini, Flamini, De Jong, Nocerino, Boateng (El Shaarawy 60), Emanuelson (Constant 79), Pazzini.
Anderlecht: Proto - Gillet, Wasilewski, Nuytinck, Deschacht, Bruno (Juhasz 79), Biglia, Kouyate (Praet 79), Kljestan, Kanu (Yakovenko 89), Mbokani.

Oct 3

Anderlecht 0
Malaga 3 (Eliseu 45+1, 64, Joaquin pen 57)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 15,711. **Ref:** Kassai (Hun)
Anderlecht: Proto - Gillet, Wasilewski, Nuytinck, Deschacht, Kouyate, Biglia, Bruno (Kljestan 46), Kanu, Jovanovic (Yakovenko 59), Mbokani.
Malaga: Caballero - Sergio Sanchez, Demichelis, Weligton, Monreal, Iturra, Camacho, Isco (Fernandez 81), Eliseu, Joaquin (Duda 74), Saviola (Santa Cruz 66).

Oct 3

Zenit St Petersburg 2 (Hulk 45+2, Shirokov 49)
Milan 3 (Emanuelson 13, El Shaarawy 16, Hubocan og 76)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 21,703. **Ref:** Brych (Ger)
Zenit: Malafeev - Anyukov, Hubocan, Lombaerts (Bukharov 89), Criscito, Fayzulin (Kanunnikov 79), Witsel, Shirokov, Bystrov (Zyryanov 72), Kerzhakov, Hulk.
Milan: Abbiati - Abate, Bonera, Zapata, Antonini, De Jong, Montolivo, Emanuelson (Nocerino 64), Boateng (Yepes 81), El Shaarawy, Bojan (Pazzini 52).

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Malaga	2	2	0	0	6	0	6
Milan	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Anderlecht	2	0	1	1	0	3	1
Zenit	2	0	0	2	2	6	0

Group D

Sep 18

Borussia Dortmund (Ger) 1 (Lewandowski 87)
Ajax (Hol) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 65,829. **Ref:** Tagliavento (Ita)
Dortmund: Weidenfeller - Piszczek, Subotic, Hummels, Schmelzer, Gundogan (Leitner 89), Kehl, Blaszczykowski (Perisic 73), Gotze (Schieber 88), Reus, Lewandowski.
Ajax: Vermeer - Van Rhijn, Alderweireld, Moisander, Blind, Poulsen, De Jong, Eriksen, Sana (Sulejmani 89), Boerrigter, Babel (Schone 79).

Sep 18

Real Madrid (Spa) 3 (Marcelo 76, Benzema 87, Cristiano Ronaldo 90)
Manchester City (Eng) 2 (Dzeko 68, Kolarov 85)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 70,381. **Ref:** Skomina (Sln)
Real Madrid: Casillas - Arbeloa, Varane, Pepe, Marcelo, Khedira (Modric 73), Xabi Alonso, Essien (Ozil 65), Di Maria, Higuain (Benzema 73), Cristiano Ronaldo.
Man City: Hart - Maicon (Zabaleta 74), Kompany, Nastasic, Clichy, Javi Garcia, Silva (Dzeko 63), Y Toure, Barry, Nasri (Kolarov 37), Tevez.

Oct 3

Ajax 1 (Moisander 56)
Real Madrid 4 (Cristiano Ronaldo 42, 79, 81, Benzema 48)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 49,491. **Ref:** Eriksson (Swe)
Ajax: Vermeer - Van Rhijn, Alderweireld, Moisander, Blind, De Jong, Poulsen (Sporkslede 69), Eriksen, Sana (Hoesen 66), Babel (Lukoki 82), Boerrigter.
Real Madrid: Casillas - Arbeloa, Pepe, Sergio Ramos, Marcelo, Essien (Khedira 78), Xabi Alonso, Callejon (Di Maria 61), Kaka (Ozil 75), Cristiano Ronaldo, Benzema.

Oct 3

Manchester City 1 (Balotelli pen 90)
Borussia Dortmund 1 (Reus 61)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 43,657. **Ref:** Kralovec (CzR)
Man City: Hart - Zabaleta, Kompany, Nastasic, Clichy (Balotelli 81), Javi Garcia (Rodwell 34), Y Toure, Silva, Nasri (Kolarov 57), Dzeko, Aguero.
Dortmund: Weidenfeller - Piszczek, Subotic, Hummels (Felipe Santana 74), Schmelzer, Bender, Gundogan (Grosskreutz 82), Blaszczykowski, Gotze (Kehl 88), Reus, Lewandowski.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	2	2	0	0	7	3	6
Dortmund	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Man City	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
Ajax	2	0	0	2	1	5	0

Group E

Sep 19

Chelsea (Eng) 2 (Oscar 31, 33)
Juventus (Ita) 2 (Vidal 38, Quagliarella 80)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 40,918. **Ref:** Proenca (Por)
Chelsea: Cech - Ivanovic, David Luiz, Terry, Cole, Ramires (Bertrand 69), Mikel, Lampard, Hazard, Fernando Torres, Oscar (Mata 75).
Juventus: Buffon - Barzagli, Bonucci, Chiellini, Lichtsteiner (Isla 77), Vidal, Pirlo, Marchisio, Asamoah, Vucinic (Matri 88), Giovinco (Quagliarella 75).

Sep 19

Shakhtar Donetsk (Ukr) 2 (Mkhitaryan 44, 76)
Nordsjaelland (Den) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 45,816. **Ref:** Gil (Pol)
Shakhtar: Pyatov - Srna, Kucher, Rakytskyi, Rat, Fernandinho, Hubschman, Ilsinho (Alex Teixeira 70), Mkhitaryan, Willian (Douglas Costa 81), Luiz Adriano (Devych 75).
Nordsjaelland: Hansen - Parkhurst, Okore, Runje, Mtiliga, Adu, Stokholm, Lorentzen (Nordstrand 72), Christensen (Christiansen 62), John (Laudrup 81), Beckmann.

Oct 2

Juventus 1 (Bonucci 25)
Shakhtar Donetsk 1 (Alex Teixeira 23)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Nijhuis (Hol)
Juventus: Buffon - Barzagli, Bonucci, Chiellini, Pirlo, Vidal (Pogba 85), Marchisio, Lichtsteiner, Asamoah, Matri (Quagliarella 65), Vucinic (Giovinco 58).
Shakhtar: Pyatov - Srna, Kucher, Rakytskyi, Rat, Fernandinho, Hubschman, Mkhitaryan, Willian, Alex Teixeira (Ilsinho 84), Luiz Adriano.

Oct 2

Nordsjaelland 0
Chelsea 4 (Mata 33, 82, David Luiz 79, Ramires 89)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 25,120. **Ref:** Strahonja (Cro)
Nordsjaelland: Hansen - Parkhurst, Okore, Runje, Mtiliga, Adu, Stokholm, Lorentzen (Laudrup 85), Nordstrand (Ticinovic 65), John, Beckmann (Christensen 75).
Chelsea: Cech - Ivanovic, Cahill, David Luiz, Cole, Ramires, Lampard, Mata (Mikel 83), Oscar, Moses (Hazard 65), Fernando Torres.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP E

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chelsea	2	1	1	0	6	2	4
Shakhtar	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Juventus	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
Nordsjaelland	2	0	0	2	0	6	0

in four domestic games already this season Mareshki said: "Nobody is insured against defeats but this loss is very strange.

"The fair-play principle is the most important thing for me and all players and coaches will take lie-detector tests."

Plovdiv replaced coach Emil Velev with Georgi Ivanov, but he quit after just one day in charge, saying that he despaired of the "organisational chaos".

CROATIA

Youngest scorer

Dinamo Zagreb's Alen Halilovic became the youngest goalscorer in Prva Liga history, at the age of 16 years and 113 days, when he was on target in his side's 4-1 win at Slaven Koprivnica.

Record holder...Friedel

ENGLAND

Record run over

After 310 consecutive Premier League games, Brad Friedel's record run ended when he was left out of Tottenham Hotspur's 2-0 win over Aston Villa.

ESTONIA

The perfect finale

Nomme Kalju were crowned league champions for the first time after they beat Kuressaare 1-0 with a goal from Kristen Viikmae, who announced his retirement after the game.

"I made the decision to retire a few months ago," said the 33-year-old who has won 114 caps for his country. "It's 16 years since I turned professional and now it's time to do something different in life."

Group F

Sep 19
Bayern Munich (Ger) 2 (Schweinsteiger 38, Kroos 76)
Valencia (Spa) 1 (Haedo Valdez 90+1)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 68,000. **Ref:** Aydinus (Tur)
Bayern: Neuer - Lahm, Boateng, Dante, Badstuber, Javi Martinez (Luiz Gustavo 69), Schweinsteiger, Robben, Kroos, Ribery (Muller 46), Pizarro (Mandzukic 63).
Valencia: Diego Alves - Joao Pereira, Rami, Ricardo Costa, Cissokho, Parejo, Costa, Feghouli, Jonas (Haedo Valdez 63), Guardado (Viera 71), Soldado (Barragan 88). *Sent off: Rami 90+3min.*

Sep 19
Lille (Fra) 1 (Chedjou 60)
BATE Borisov (Bls) 3 (Volodko 6, Rodionov 20, Olekhnovich 43)
HT: 0-3. **Att:** 38,122. **Ref:** Borski (Pol)
Lille: Landreau - Debuchy (Sidibe 85), Basa, Chedjou, Digne, Balmont, Mavuba, Martin (Roux 46), Kalou, De Melo (Mendes 46), Payet.
BATE: Gorbunov - Polyakov, Simic, Radkov, Bordachev, Olekhnovich, Likhtarovich (Sivakov 66), Pavlov (Bressan 80), Hleb, Volodko, Rodionov (Mozolevski 89).

Oct 2
BATE Borisov 3 (Pavlov 23, Rodionov 78, Bressan 90+4)
Bayern Munich 1 (Ribery 90+1)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 24,636. **Ref:** Stavrev (Mac)
BATE: Gorbunov - Polyakov, Filipenko, Simic, Bordachev, Olekhnovich, Likhtarovich (Sivakov 66), Volodko, Pavlov (Bressan 84), Hleb, Rodionov (Mozolevski 87).
Bayern: Neuer - Lahm, Boateng, Dante, Badstuber (Schweinsteiger 77), Javi Martinez (Shaqiri 58), Luiz Gustavo, Muller, Kroos, Ribery, Mandzukic (Pizarro 75).

Oct 2
Valencia 2 (Jonas 38, 75)
Lille 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 28,517. **Ref:** Rocchi (Ita)
Valencia: Guaita - Barragan, Delgado, Victor Ruiz, Cissokho, Costa, Gago, Feghouli (Joao Pereira 87), Jonas (Parejo 80), Guardado, Soldado (Haedo Valdez 84).
Lille: Landreau - Debuchy, Basa, Chedjou (Digne 82), Beria, Gueye, Balmont, Pedretti, Payet, Mendes (Rodelin 73), Roux (De Melo 64).
Sent off: Debuchy 86min.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP F

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
BATE	2	2	0	0	6	2	6
Bayern	2	1	0	1	3	4	3
Valencia	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Lille	2	0	0	2	1	5	0

Group G

Sep 19
Barcelona (Spa) 3 (Tello 14, Messi 71, 80)
Spartak Moscow (Rus) 2 (Daniel Alves og 29, Romulo 59)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 73,580. **Ref:** Mazic (Ser)
Barcelona: Valdes - Daniel Alves (Sanchez 64), Pique (Song 12), Mascherano, Adriano, Xavi, Busquets, Fabregas, Pedro, Messi, Tello (Villa 74).
Spartak: Dykan - K Kombarov (Makeev 46), Insaurralde, Suchy, D Kombarov, Romulo, Rafael Carioca, Kallstrom (Jurado 78), McGeady, Ari (Dzyuba 83), Emenike.

Sep 19
Celtic (Sco) 0
Benfica (Por) 0
Att: 57,759. **Ref:** Rizzoli (Ita)
Celtic: Forster - Matthews, Wilson, Mulgrew, Lustig (Rogne 63), Commons, Wanyama, Brown, Izaguirre (Hooper 66), Forrest, Fedor.
Benfica: Artur - Andre Almeida, Garay, Jardel, Melgarejo, Matic, Aimar (Cardozo 63), Perez, Gaitan (Nolito 83), Salvio, Rodrigo (Bruno Cesar 70).

Oct 2
Benfica 0
Barcelona 2 (Sanchez 6, Fabregas 56)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 63,847. **Ref:** Cakir (Tur)
Benfica: Artur - Pereira, Jardel, Garay, Melgarejo, Matic, Salvio, Gaitan (Nolito 75), Lima, Perez (Aimar 60), Bruno Cesar (Carlos Martins 46).
Barcelona: Valdes - Daniel Alves, Puyol (Song 78), Mascherano, Jordi Alba, Xavi, Busquets, Sanchez, Fabregas (Iniesta 73), Pedro (Villa 82), Messi.
Sent off: Busquets 88min.

Oct 2
Spartak Moscow 2 (Emenike 41, 48)
Celtic 3 (Hooper 12, D Kombarov og 71, Samaras 90)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 43,351. **Ref:** Chapron (Fra)
Spartak: Pesyakov - Makeev, Insaurralde, Pareja, D Kombarov, Rafael Carioca, Kallstrom, De Zeeuw (Bryzgalov 66), Ari (Kozlov 87), McGeady (Dzyuba 76), Emenike. *Sent off: Insaurralde 63min.*
Celtic: Forster - Ambrose, Wilson, Wanyama (Forrest 70), Izaguirre, Lustig, Brown, Commons, Mulgrew (Ledley 80), Samaras, Hooper.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP G

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barcelona	2	2	0	0	5	2	6
Celtic	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Benfica	2	0	1	1	0	2	1
Spartak	2	0	0	2	4	6	0

Group H

Sep 19
Manchester United (Eng) 1 (Carrick 7)
Galatasaray (Tur) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 74,653. **Ref:** Stark (Ger)
Man Utd: De Gea - Rafael, Vidic, Evans, Evra, Valencia, Carrick, Scholes (Fletcher 79), Nani, Kagawa (Welbeck 84), Van Persie (Hernandez 81).
Galatasaray: Muslera - Eboue, Nounkeu, Semih, Hakan, Altintop, Felipe Melo (Aydin 79), Selcuk, Amrabat (Emre 63), Burak, Umut (Elmander 16).

Sep 19
Braga (Por) 0
CFR Cluj (Rom) 2 (Rafael Bastos 19, 34)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 10,922. **Ref:** Rasmussen (Den)
Braga: Beto - Salino (Paulo Cesar 70), Nuno Coelho, Paulo Vinicius, Ismaily, Custodio, Hugo Viana (Ze Luis 64), Alan (Helder Barbosa 46), Mossoro, Ruben Micael, Eder.
CFR: Felgueiras - Ivo Pinto, Cadu, Rada, Camora, Sougou (Aguirregaray 46), Muresan, Luis Alberto (Godemeche 65), Sepsi, Rafael Bastos (Rui Pedro 79), Kapetanos.

Oct 2
CFR Cluj 1 (Kapetanos 14)
Manchester United 2 (Van Persie 29, 49)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 16,259. **Ref:** Undiano Mallenco (Spa)
CFR: Felgueiras - Sepsi, Cadu, Rada, Ivo Pinto, Sougou (Luis Alberto 24), Aguirregaray (Nicoara 80), Muresan, Camora, Rafael Bastos, Kapetanos (Bjelanovic 61).
Man Utd: De Gea - Rafael, Ferdinand, Evans (Wootton 79), Evra, Cleverley, Anderson, Fletcher, Rooney, Hernandez (Welbeck 83), Van Persie.

Oct 2
Galatasaray 0
Braga 2 (Ruben Micael 27, Alan 90+4)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 46,987. **Ref:** Hagen (Nor)
Galatasaray: Muslera - Eboue, Semih, Nounkeu, Riera, Selcuk, Felipe Melo (Elmander 76), Amrabat (Aydin 46), Emre (Yekta 78), Umut, Burak.
Braga: Beto - Salino, Douglao, Paulo Vinicius, Ismaily (Helder Barbosa 84), Custodio, Hugo Viana (Djamal 78), Ruben Amorim, Ruben Micael (Nuno Coelho 90+2), Alan, Eder.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP H

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man United	2	2	0	0	3	1	6
CFR Cluj	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Braga	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Galatasaray	2	0	0	2	0	3	0

Top 2 in each group qualify for 1st knockout round; 3rd-placed teams enter Europa League at 1st knockout round stage

EUROPA LEAGUE

Group A

Sep 20: Udinese (Ita) 1 Anzhi (Rus) 1; Young Boys (Swi) 3 Liverpool (Eng) 5.
Oct 4: Anzhi 2 Young Boys 0; Liverpool 2 Udinese 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Anzhi	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Udinese	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Liverpool	2	1	0	1	7	6	3
Young Boys	2	0	0	2	3	7	0

Group B

Sep 20: Hapoel Tel Aviv (Isr) 0 Atletico Madrid (Spa) 3; Pizen (CzR) 3 Academica (Por) 1.
Oct 4: Academica 1 Hapoel Tel Aviv 1; Atletico Madrid 1 Plzen 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Atletico	2	2	0	0	4	0	6
Plzen	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Academica	2	0	1	1	2	4	1
Hapoel Tel Aviv	2	0	1	1	1	4	1

Group C

Sep 20: AEL (Cyp) 0 Monchengladbach (Ger) 0; Fenerbahce (Tur) 2 Marseille (Fra) 2.
Oct 4: Marseille 5 AEL 1; Monchengladbach 2 Fenerbahce 4.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Marseille	2	1	1	0	7	3	4
Fenerbahce	2	1	1	0	6	4	4
M'gladbach	2	0	1	1	2	4	1
AEL	2	0	1	1	1	5	1

Group D

Sep 20: Bordeaux (Fra) 4 Club Brugge (Blg) 0; Maritimo (Por) 0 Newcastle (Eng) 0.
Oct 4: Club Brugge 2 Maritimo 0; Newcastle 3 Bordeaux 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newcastle	2	1	1	0	3	0	4
Bordeaux	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
Club Brugge	2	1	0	1	2	4	3
Maritimo	2	0	1	1	0	2	1

Group E

Sep 20: Copenhagen (Den) 2 Molde (Nor) 1; Stuttgart (Ger) 2 Steaua Bucharest (Rom) 2.
Oct 4: Molde 2 Stuttgart 0; Steaua Bucharest 1 Copenhagen 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Steaua	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Copenhagen	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Molde	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Stuttgart	2	0	1	1	2	4	1

Group F

Sep 20: Dnipro (Ukr) 2 PSV Eindhoven (Hol) 0; Napoli (Ita) 4 AIK (Swe) 0.
Oct 4: AIK 2 Dnipro 3; PSV Eindhoven 3 Napoli 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dnipro	2	2	0	0	5	2	6
PSV	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Napoli	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
AIK	2	0	0	2	2	7	0

Group G

Sep 20: Genk (Blg) 3 Videoton (Hun) 0; Sporting Lisbon (Por) 0 Basle (Swi) 0.
Oct 4: Basle 2 Genk 2; Videoton 3 Sporting Lisbon 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Genk	2	1	1	0	5	2	4
Videoton	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Basle	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Sporting	2	0	1	1	0	3	1

Group H

Sep 20: Internazionale (Ita) 2 Rubin (Rus) 2; Partizan Belgrade (Ser) 0 Neftchi (Aze) 0.
Oct 4: Neftchi 1 Internazionale 3; Rubin 2 Partizan Belgrade 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inter	2	1	1	0	5	3	4
Rubin	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
Neftchi	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
Partizan	2	0	1	1	0	2	1

Group I

Sep 20: Athletic Bilbao (Spa) 1 Kiryat Shmona (Isr) 1; Lyon (Fra) 2 Sparta Prague (CzR) 1.
Oct 4: Kiryat Shmona 3 Lyon 4; Sparta Prague 3 Athletic Bilbao 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lyon	2	2	0	0	6	4	6
Sparta	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
Kiryat Shmona	2	0	1	1	4	5	1
Athletic	2	0	1	1	2	4	1

Group J

Sep 20: Maribor (Sln) 3 Panathinaikos (Gre) 0; Tottenham (Eng) 0 Lazio (Ita) 0.
Oct 4: Lazio 1 Maribor 0; Panathinaikos 1 Tottenham 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lazio	2	1	1	0	1	0	4
Maribor	2	1	0	1	3	1	3
Tottenham	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
Panathinaikos	2	0	1	1	1	4	1

Group K

Sep 20: Bayer Leverkusen (Ger) 0 Metalist (Ukr) 0; Rapid Vienna (Aut) 1 Rosenborg (Nor) 2.
Oct 4: Metalist 2 Rapid Vienna 0; Rosenborg 0 Bayer Leverkusen 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Metalist	2	1	1	0	2	0	4
Leverkusen	2	1	1	0	1	0	4
Rosenborg	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Rapid	2	0	0	2	1	4	0

FAROE ISLANDS

Final day success

Arnbjorn Hansen scored twice on the last day of the season to give EB/Streymur a 3-2 victory over NSI Runavik and secure the title for a second time.

"We might not have the biggest squad but, player by player, we have the best team in the Faroe Islands," said coach Hedin Askham of the club that last won the championship in 2008.

FINLAND

Honka's first win

Honka won the Finnish Cup for the first time, beating KuPS 1-0 in the Final. Antti Makijarvi scored the only goal as KuPS had Etchu Tabe and Sander Puri sent off.

"We have had a tough season, both on and off the pitch, and this success makes up for it," said Honka coach Mika Lehkosuo, whose side spent much of the season battling against relegation but will now enter next year's Europa League.

FRANCE

New record for Ibra

Zlatan Ibrahimovic became the first player to score for six different sides in the Champions League when he put Paris Saint-Germain ahead in their 4-1 win against Dynamo Kiev.

Six appeal...Ibrahimovic

The Swede had previously been on the scoresheet for Ajax, Juventus, Internazionale, Barcelona and Milan.

Ali Ahamada became the first goalkeeper to score in a Ligue 1 game for 16 years, heading home a

Group I

Sep 20: Levante (Spa) 1 Helsingborg (Swe) 0; Twente Enschede (Hol) 2 Hanover (Ger) 2.
Oct 4: Hanover 2 Levante 1; Helsingborg 2 Twente Enschede 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hanover	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Levante	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Twente	2	0	2	0	4	4	2
Helsingborg	2	0	1	1	2	3	1

Top 2 in each group qualify for 1st knockout round

AUSTRIA

Sep 15: Wolfsberger 6 Wiener Neustadt 0; Salzburg 1 Ried 1; Sturm 3 Wacker 0; Rapid 0 Admira 0.
Sep 16: Mattersburg 2 Austria 4.
Sep 22: Admira 5 Mattersburg 1; Wiener Neustadt 1 Sturm 1; Austria 0 Salzburg 1; Wacker 0 Wolfsberger 1.
Sep 23: Ried 0 Rapid 2.
Sep 29: Austria 1 Wolfsberger 1; Wacker 0 Rapid 2; Wiener Neustadt 0 Mattersburg 0; Ried 1 Admira 1.
Sep 30: Salzburg 3 Sturm 2.
Oct 6: Wolfsberger 2 Ried 5; Mattersburg 1 Salzburg 3; Admira 4 Wacker 1.
Oct 7: Sturm 1 Austria 1; Rapid 1 Wiener Neustadt 1.

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Salzburg	11	7	3	1	24	13	24
Rapid	11	7	2	2	18	5	23
Austria	11	7	2	2	16	6	23
Sturm	11	5	2	4	17	16	17
Admira	11	4	4	3	23	15	16
Ried	11	4	2	5	15	14	14
Wolfsberger	11	4	2	5	15	15	14
Mattersburg	11	4	1	6	15	22	13
W Neustadt	11	1	4	6	8	23	7
Wacker	11	1	0	10	6	28	3

36-round season (9x4); bottom team will be relegated

BELGIUM

Regular season

Sep 14: Kortrijk 1 Club Brugge 1.
Sep 15: Lierse 1 Anderlecht 1; Club Brugge 0 Lokeren 1; OH Leuven 0 Zulte Waregem 1; Gent 0 Mechelen 2; Genk 1 Waasland-Beveren 1; Mons 2 Charleroi 3.
Sep 16: Beerschot 3 Standard 2.
Sep 21: Standard 1 Gent 2.
Sep 22: Zulte Waregem 2 Anderlecht 3; Beerschot 2 Kortrijk 1; Lokeren 2 OH Leuven 2; Mechelen 3 Mons 0; Waasland-Beveren 1 Lierse 1.
Sep 23: Club Brugge 4 Cercle Brugge 0; Charleroi 1 Genk 2.
Sep 29: Anderlecht 3 Lokeren 0; Genk 2 Mechelen 1; OH Leuven 5 Waasland-Beveren 2; Lierse 1 Zulte Waregem 4; Mons 1 Beerschot 0; Cercle Brugge 1 Charleroi 0.
Sep 30: Gent 2 Club Brugge 2; Kortrijk 2 Standard 1.
Oct 5: Beerschot 2 Gent 2.
Oct 6: Charleroi 0 OH Leuven 4; Zulte Waregem 3 Cercle Brugge 1; Lokeren 2 Lierse 2; Mechelen 0 Kortrijk 2; Waasland-Beveren 2 Mons 2.
Oct 7: Standard 2 Anderlecht 1; Club Brugge 1 Genk 1.

BELGIUM – REGULAR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Club Brugge	10	6	4	0	25	12	22
Anderlecht	10	5	4	1	18	10	19
Z Waregem	10	6	1	3	19	13	19
Genk	10	4	6	0	17	12	18
Kortrijk	10	5	2	3	12	10	17
Gent	10	4	4	2	15	13	16
OH Leuven	10	3	5	2	21	17	14
Beerschot	10	4	2	4	15	15	14
Standard	10	4	1	5	20	18	13
Mons	10	3	3	4	19	20	12
Lokeren	10	3	3	4	14	16	12
Mechelen	10	3	2	5	16	16	11
Lierse	10	1	7	2	11	13	10
Waasland-B	10	1	4	5	11	19	7
Charleroi	10	2	1	7	10	23	7
Cercle Brugge	10	1	1	8	8	24	4

30-round regular season (15x2); top 6 will form championship group, 7th to 14th will enter Europa League-place play-offs, 15th & 16th (bottom 2) will enter relegation play-off series – the winner of which will enter rel/prom play-offs, the loser relegated

CZECH REPUBLIC

Sep 14: Jablonec 2 Pribram 2.
Sep 15: Plzen 1 Sparta 0; Ceske Budejovice 1 Dukla 1; Slovacko 3 Mlada Boleslav 1.
Sep 16: Hradec Kralove 2 Brno 0; Olomouc 3 Liberec 0.
Sep 17: Jihlava 3 Ostrava 2.
Sep 19: Slavia 2 Teplice 0.
Sep 21: Liberec 2 Ostrava 2.
Sep 22: Pribram 1 Ceske Budejovice 1; Slovacko 0 Jablonec 1.
Sep 23: Brno 5 Jihlava 1; Teplice 1 Plzen 1; Dukla 0 Slavia 0; Mlada Boleslav 1 Hradec Kralove 0.
Sep 24: Sparta 1 Olomouc 2.
Sep 28: Jihlava 2 Pribram 1; Olomouc 1 Brno 1.
Sep 29: Ceske Budejovice 3 Teplice 2; Ostrava 2 Mlada Boleslav 2; Slavia 1 Sparta 0.
Sep 30: Plzen 1 Slovacko 1; Hradec Kralove 2 Liberec 2.
Oct 1: Jablonec 2 Dukla 2.
Oct 5: Dukla 1 Hradec Kralove 0; Slovacko 3 Slavia 0.
Oct 6: Mlada Boleslav 0 Olomouc 1.
Oct 7: Jablonec 2 Ceske Budejovice 1; Brno 2 Liberec 1; Teplice 3 Jihlava 1; Pribram 1 Plzen 0.
Oct 8: Sparta 2 Ostrava 0.

CZECH REPUBLIC

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Jablonec	10	6	3	1	21	10	21
Sparta	10	6	1	3	16	9	19
Olomouc	10	5	4	1	14	7	19
Plzen	10	5	3	2	18	9	18
Brno	10	5	2	3	17	18	17
Slavia	10	3	5	2	14	10	14
Slovacko	10	4	2	4	13	13	14
Jihlava	10	3	5	2	17	19	14
Liberec	10	3	4	3	15	13	13
Dukla	10	2	6	2	15	14	12
M Boleslav	10	3	2	5	10	15	11
Teplice	10	2	3	5	9	18	9
H Kralove	10	1	5	4	9	13	8
Pribram	10	1	5	4	8	14	8
C Budejovice	10	2	2	6	12	19	8
Ostrava	10	1	4	5	13	20	7

30-round season (15x2); bottom 2 will be relegated

DENMARK

Sep 14: Esbjerg 3 OB 0.
Sep 15: SonderjyskE 0 Silkeborg 2; Copenhagen 2 Nordsjaelland 1.
Sep 16: AaB 4 Randers 0; Brondby 2 Horsens 2.
Sep 17: AGF 3 Midtjylland 2.
Sep 21: AGF 2 SonderjyskE 2.
Sep 22: Nordsjaelland 1 Randers 1.
Sep 23: Horsens 2 OB 2; Midtjylland 1 Brondby 1; Copenhagen 5 Silkeborg 0.
Sep 24: AaB 0 Esbjerg 2.
Sep 28: Nordsjaelland 3 Esbjerg 0.
Sep 29: Horsens 1 Copenhagen 1.
Sep 30: Silkeborg 2 AaB 1; OB 1 AGF 2; Randers 3 Brondby 2.
Oct 1: Midtjylland 1 SonderjyskE 3.
Oct 5: OB 3 Nordsjaelland 0.
Oct 6: SonderjyskE 0 AGF 3.
Oct 7: Silkeborg 1 Horsens 1; Randers 2 Midtjylland 1; Esbjerg 2 Copenhagen 2; Brondby 1 AaB 3.

DENMARK

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Copenhagen	12	7	5	0	29	13	26
AaB	12	7	2	3	27	12	23
AGF	12	6	3	3	23	14	21
Nordsjaelland	12	5	4	3	23	13	19
Randers	12	6	1	5	15	21	19
OB	12	5	3	4	15	17	18
Horsens	12	3	6	3	15	20	15
SonderjyskE	12	4	2	6	17	23	14
Midtjylland	12	3	3	6	17	23	12
Silkeborg	12	3	2	7	11	26	11
Esbjerg	12	2	4	6	12	15	10
Brondby	12	1	5	6	12	19	8

33-round season (11x3); bottom 2 will be relegated

ENGLAND

Saturday, September 15

Arsenal 6 (Hooiveld og 11, Podolski 31, Gervinho 35, 71, Clyne og 37, Walcott 88)
Southampton 1 (Fox 45) Att: 60,097

Aston Villa 2 (Lowton 16, Benteke 88)
Swansea 0 Att: 34,005

Fulham 3 (Berbatov 32, pen 45+1, Sidwell 89)
West Bromwich 0 Att: 25,691

Manchester United 4 (Scholes 51, Hernandez 63, Buttner 66, Powell 82)
Wigan 0 Att: 75,142

Norwich 0
West Ham 0 Att: 26,806

Queens Park Rangers 0
Chelsea 0 Att: 18,271

Stoke 1 (Crouch 15)
Manchester City 1 (Javi Garcia 35) Att: 27,101

Sunderland 1 (Fletcher 29)
Liverpool 1 (Suarez 71) Att: 41,997

Sunday, September 16

Reading 1 (Robson-Kanu 90)
Tottenham 3 (Defoe 18, 74, Bale 71) Att: 24,160

Monday, September 17

Everton 2 (Baines 15, Anichebe 88)
Newcastle 2 (Ba 49, 90) Att: 32,510

Saturday, September 22

Chelsea 1 (Cole 85)
Stoke 0 Att: 41,112

Southampton 4 (Lambert 58, pen 90+5, Clyne 63, Clark og 72)
Aston Villa 1 (Bent 36) Att: 30,713

Swansea 0
Everton 3 (Anichebe 22, Mirallas 43, Fellaini 82) Att: 20,464

West Bromwich 1 (Lukaku 71)
Reading 0 Att: 23,854

West Ham 1 (Nolan 90+3)
Sunderland 1 (Fletcher 9) Att: 33,052

Wigan 1 (Kone 90+1)
Fulham 2 (Rodallega 31, Duff 68) Att: 19,284

Sunday, September 23

Liverpool 1 (Gerrard 46)
Manchester United 2 (Rafael 51, Van Persie pen 81) Att: 44,263

Manchester City 1 (Lescott 40)
Arsenal 1 (Koscielny 82) Att: 47,318

Newcastle 1 (Ba 19)
Norwich 0 Att: 49,402

Tottenham 2 (Faurlin og 60, Defoe 61)
Queens Park Rangers 1 (Zamora 33) Att: 36,052

Saturday, September 29

Arsenal 1 (Gervinho 42)
Chelsea 2 (Fernando Torres 20, Mata 53) Att: 60,101

Everton 3 (Osman 25, Jelavic 32, 38)
Southampton 1 (Ramirez 6) Att: 37,922

Fulham 1 (Petric pen 10)
Manchester City 2 (Aguero 43, Dzeko 87) Att: 25,698

Manchester United 2 (Nani 51, Kagawa 53)
Tottenham 3 (Vertonghen 2, Bale 32, Dempsey 52) Att: 75,566

Norwich 2 (Morison 61, Holt 87)
Liverpool 5 (Suarez 2, 38, 57, Nuri 47, Gerrard 68) Att: 26,831

Reading 2 (Kebe 58, Hunt 62)
Newcastle 2 (Ba 58, 83) Att: 24,097

Stoke 2 (Crouch 12, 36)
Swansea 0 Att: 27,330

Sunderland 1 (Fletcher 51)
Wigan 0 Att: 37,742

Sunday, September 30

Aston Villa 1 (Bent 80)
West Bromwich 1 (Long 51) Att: 34,489

Monday, October 1

Queens Park Rangers 1 (Taarabt 57)
West Ham 2 (Jarvis 3, Vaz Te 35) Att: 17,363

Saturday, October 6

Chelsea 4 (Fernando Torres 14, Lampard 22, Hazard 31, Ivanovic 76)
Norwich 1 (Holt 11) Att: 41,784

Manchester City 3 (Kolarov 5, Aguero 60, Milner 89)
Sunderland 0 Att: 47,036

Swansea 2 (Michu 71, Routledge 78)
Reading 2 (Pogrebnyak 31, Hunt 44) Att: 20,336

West Bromwich 3 (Morrison 5, Gera 22, Mulumbu 85)
Queens Park Rangers 2 (Taarabt 35, Granero 90+2) Att: 23,987

free-kick to earn Toulouse a 2-2 draw against Rennes.

GERMANY

End of road for Bayern

Bayern Munich's 3-1 defeat away to BATE Borisov in the Champions League brought an end to their record-equalling start to a season of nine successive victories in all competitions.

Hoffenheim's 22-year-old midfielder Boris Vukcevic was left fighting for his life after undergoing surgery for serious head injuries received in a car accident near Bammental in southwest Germany.

Vukcevic, who was born in Croatia but has represented Germany at under-21 level, has been a regular for Hoffenheim since making his debut in May 2009.

Stopped...Bayern's Franck Ribery is crowded out by BATE defenders

HOLLAND

Sno collapses again

NEC midfielder Evander Sno suffered a cardiac arrest and collapsed during his side's 5-1 defeat to Feyenoord.

The 25-year-old, who had an internal defibrillator fitted following a cardiac arrest when playing for Ajax reserves two years ago, was able to get back to his feet and walk off the pitch.

West Ham 1 (Diame 21)
Arsenal 3 (Giroud 41, Walcott 77, Cazorla 83)
Att: 34,974

Wigan 2 (Kone 10, Di Santo 23)
Everton 2 (Jelavic 11, Baines pen 87) Att: 18,759

Sunday, October 7

Liverpool 0
Stoke 0 Att: 44,531

Newcastle 0
Manchester United 3 (Evans 8, Evra 15, Cleverley 71) Att: 52,203

Southampton 2 (Fonte 4, 90)
Fulham 2 (Hooiveld og 70, Richardson 88)
Att: 28,004

Tottenham 2 (Caulker 58, Lennon 67)
Aston Villa 0 Att: 35,802

ENGLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chelsea	7	6	1	0	15	4	19
Man United	7	5	0	2	17	9	15
Man City	7	4	3	0	15	8	15
Everton	7	4	2	1	14	8	14
Tottenham	7	4	2	1	13	8	14
West Brom	7	4	2	1	11	7	14
Arsenal	7	3	3	1	13	5	12
West Ham	7	3	2	2	8	8	11
Fulham	7	3	1	3	15	11	10
Newcastle	7	2	3	2	8	11	9
Swansea	7	2	2	3	12	11	8
Stoke	7	1	5	1	6	5	8
Sunderland	6	1	4	1	5	7	7
Liverpool	7	1	3	3	9	12	6
Wigan	7	1	2	4	7	13	5
Aston Villa	7	1	2	4	6	12	5
Southampton	7	1	1	5	12	20	4
Reading	6	0	3	3	8	13	3
Norwich	7	0	3	4	5	17	3
QPR	7	0	2	5	6	16	2

38-round season (19x2); bottom 3 will be relegated

Leading scorers
6 Demba Ba (Newcastle)
5 Steven Fletcher (Sunderland)
5 Michu (Swansea)
5 Luis Suarez (Liverpool)
5 Robin Van Persie (Manchester United)

FAROE ISLANDS

FAROE ISLANDS – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
EB/Streymur (C)	27	17	7	3	50	27	58
IF	27	16	6	5	55	23	54
HB	27	13	6	8	56	34	45
KI	27	13	6	8	59	44	45
Vikingur	27	12	9	6	43	35	45
B36	27	10	8	9	42	36	38
NSI	27	9	4	14	38	42	31
TB	27	5	9	13	30	50	24
B68 (R)	27	6	6	15	23	43	24
Suduroy (R)	27	2	3	22	16	78	9

FINLAND

FINNISH CUP

Final

Sep 29 - Helsinki (Sonera)
Honka 1 (Makijarvi 23)
KuPS 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 2,340. **Ref:** Gestranius
Sent off: Tabe 39min, Puri 71min (both KuPS)

FRANCE

Friday, September 14

Paris Saint-Germain 2 (Pastore 38, Ibrahimovic 69)
Toulouse 0 Att: 43,224

Reims 3 (Diego 38, Glombard 70, Courtet 86)
Montpellier 1 (Cabella 55) Att: 15,835

Saturday, September 15

Evian TG 3 (Barbosa 31, 78, Sagbo 73)
Bastia 0 Att: 8,555

Nice 4 (Meriem 46, Pejcinovic 51, Bautheac 68, Eysseric 90+1)
Brest 2 (Ayite pen 78, Baysse 90+2) Att: 9,148

Saint-Etienne 0
Sochaux 1 (Doubai 75) Att: 25,555

Troyes 1 (Grax 89)
Lille 1 (Payet 38) Att: 11,213

Valenciennes 0
Bordeaux 0 Att: 15,073

Sunday, September 16

Lyon 2 (Lovren 25, Lopez 75)
AC Ajaccio 0 Att: 25,666

Nancy 0
Marseille 1 (J Ayew 53) Att: 18,256

Rennes 1 (Pitroipa 71)
Lorient 2 (Traore 23, 43) Att: 20,548

Friday, September 21

Montpellier 1 (Camara 70)
Saint-Etienne 1 (Aubameyang 45+2) Att: 16,666

Saturday, September 22

Bastia 0
Paris Saint-Germain 4 (Menez 6, Ibrahimovic 40, 90, Matuidi 72) Att: 16,054

Brest 2 (Ayite 61, Ben Basat pen 76)
Valenciennes 1 (Dossevi 11) Att: 10,627

Lorient 1 (Monnet-Paquet 89)
Nice 1 (Meriem 40) Att: 14,873

Reims 2 (Courtet 7, Diego pen 61)
Nancy 0 Att: 13,413

Sochaux 3 (Roudet 8, Doubai 54, Bakambu 71)
Troyes 1 (Faussurier 34) Att: 12,813

Toulouse 2 (Ben Yedder 24, Ahamada 90+5)
Rennes 2 (Pitroipa 9, Erdinc 65) Att: 13,022

Sunday, September 23

Bordeaux 2 (Henrique 54, Gouffran 78)
AC Ajaccio 2 (Faty 64, Belghazouani 90+2)
Att: 16,295

Lille 1 (Roux 7)
Lyon 1 (Lopez 80) Att: 43,475

Marseille 1 (Amalfitano 33)
Evian TG 0 Att: 33,774

Friday, September 28

Rennes 2 (Feret 64, Alessandrini 75)
Lille 0 Att: 17,111

Saturday, September 29

AC Ajaccio 1 (Mostefa 57)
Brest 0 Att: 6,029

Evian TG 1 (Khelifa 8)
Lorient 1 (Sunu 86) Att: 8,057

Nancy 0
Montpellier 2 (Belhanda 66, Camara 90)
Att: 13,867

Nice 2 (Cvitanich 32, Civelli 58)
Bastia 2 (Rothen 42, Modeste 71) Att: 9,114

Paris Saint-Germain 2 (Gameiro 11, 33)
Sochaux 0 Att: 44,552

Troyes 0
Toulouse 2 (Ben Yedder 65, Riviere 73)
Att: 17,087

Sunday, September 30

Lyon 0
Bordeaux 2 (Tremoulinas 65, Diabate 82)
Att: 32,154

Saint-Etienne 0
Reims 0 Att: 23,996

Valenciennes 4 (Danic 16, Le Tallec 34, 63, Kadir 39)
Marseille 1 (J Ayew 90+2) Att: 22,584

Friday, October 5

Saint-Etienne 4 (Brandao 9, 22, Hamouma 19, Aubameyang 25)
Nancy 0 Att: 19,869

Saturday, October 6

Bastia 3 (Rincon og 17, Modeste 37, Maoulida 88)
Troyes 2 (Marcos 26, pen 49) Att: 13,326

Lille 2 (Roux 42, Mendes 56)
AC Ajaccio 0 Att: 39,375

Montpellier 2 (Estrada 36, Camara 42)
Evian TG 3 (Khelifa 30, 62, 89) Att: 16,781

Reims 3 (Diego 16, Courtet 87, 90+3)
Nice 1 (Cvitanich 63) Att: 13,377

Sochaux 0
Rennes 1 (Erdinc 7) Att: 13,070

Toulouse 2 (Ben Yedder 56, Regattin 90)
Valenciennes 2 (Kadir 12, Sanchez 15)
Att: 12,512

Sunday, October 7

Brest 1 (Ben Basat 37)
Bordeaux 1 (Diabate 68) Att: 11,158

Lorient 1 (Aliadiere 47)
Lyon 1 (Gomis 23) Att: 15,090

Marseille 2 (Gignac 18, 32)
Paris Saint-Germain 2 (Ibrahimovic 23, 25)
Att: 40,748

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Marseille	8	6	1	1	12	7	19
PSG	8	4	4	0	14	5	16
Lyon	8	4	3	1	13	8	15
Lorient	8	3	5	0	14	9	14
Reims	8	4	2	2	11	6	14
Bordeaux	8	3	5	0	10	6	14
Toulouse	8	3	4	1	11	9	13
Valenciennes	8	3	3	2	13	8	12
Saint-Etienne	8	3	2	3	14	6	11
Lille	8	2	4	2	10	10	10
Rennes	8	3	1	4	10	11	10
Brest	8	3	1	4	8	13	10
Bastia	8	3	1	4	12	20	10
AC Ajaccio[1]	8	3	2	3	6	9	9
Montpellier	8	2	2	4	11	12	8
Nice	8	1	5	2	11	12	8
Evian TG	8	2	2	4	10	11	8
Sochaux	8	2	0	6	7	13	6
Nancy	8	1	1	6	2	14	4
Troyes	8	0	2	6	8	18	2

38-round season (19x2); bottom 3 will be relegated
[1]2pts deducted for fan hooliganism during a 2011-12 league game

Leading scorers
9 Zlatan Ibrahimovic (Paris Saint-Germain)
6 Wissam Ben Yedder (Toulouse)

GERMANY

Friday, September 14

Augsburg 0
Wolfsburg 0 Att: 28,512

Saturday, September 15

Bayern Munich 3 (Mandzukic 2, Schweinsteiger 13, Kroos 90+2)
Mainz 1 (Szalai pen 59) Att: 71,000

Borussia Dortmund 3 (Hummels 29, Blaszczykowski 39, Lewandowski 78)
Bayer Leverkusen 0 Att: 80,645

Greuther Furth 0
Schalke 2 (Draxler 48, Holtby 88) Att: 18,000

Hanover 3 (Huszti 6, 90+2, Andreasen 10)
Werder Bremen 2 (Hunt pen 26, De Bruyne 74)
Att: 49,000

Monchengladbach 2 (De Jong 45, Xhaka 53)
Nuremberg 3 (Klose 17, Simons 25, Kiyotake 55)
Att: 52,195

Stuttgart 0
Fortuna Dusseldorf 0 Att: 55,039

Sunday, September 16

Eintracht Frankfurt 3 (Inui 13, Occean 18, Aigner 52)
Hamburg 2 (Westermann 45, Son 63) Att: 51,500

Freiburg 5 (Guede 17, Kruse 27, Diagne 68, Makiadi 83, Freis 87)
Hoffenheim 3 (Delpierre 2, Vukcevic 57, Usami 76)
Att: 22,800

Friday, September 21

Nuremberg 1 (Polter 76)
Eintracht Frankfurt 2 (Hoffer 25, Inui 60)
Att: 45,033

Saturday, September 22

Fortuna Dusseldorf 0
Freiburg 0 Att: 26,862

Champion...Gudjonsson

ICELAND

Victory not as sweet

FH will enter next season's Champions League qualifiers after winning their sixth Icelandic Premier League title.

"I cannot say this is the sweetest victory," admitted coach Heimir Gudjonsson. "The best one was when we won the division for the first time in 2004. But this victory is good when you consider that nobody believed FH would be a good side this summer."

Breidablik join IBV and Icelandic Cup winners KR in the Europa League. Selfoss and Grindavik went down.

KAZAKHSTAN

Withdrawal threat

Taraz threatened to withdraw from the Kazakhstan Premier League after the country's football federation (KFF) annulled their 1-0 win against Tobol Kostanai and issued a life ban to referee Sergei Pasko for what they considered biased officiating. Both teams had a player sent off as Taraz won the game with a disputed penalty, and Tobol had a goal disallowed late in the game.

Izmail Bzarov from the KFF said: "We are striving to make sure that our football is honest. Referees often make mistakes. In this case, they weren't simply mistakes. It was bias."

An unprecedented decision was made to replay the match, which angered Taraz officials.

A club official said: "If this incomprehensible decision remains in force, not only will we refuse to

CLUB FOOTBALL

Hamburg 3 (Son 2, 59, Ilicevic 55)
Borussia Dortmund 2 (Perisic 46, 60) Att: 57,000

Mainz 2 (Ivanschitz 10, Szalai 25)
Augsburg 0 Att: 28,463

Schalke 0
Bayern Munich 2 (Kroos 55, Muller 58) Att: 61,673

Wolfsburg 1 (Olic 42)
Greuther Furth 1 (Pogatetz og 27) Att: 25,552

Sunday, September 23
Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Kadlec 12)
Monchengladbach 1 (Herrmann 3) Att: 27,640

Hoffenheim 3 (Johnson 27, Salihovic 82, Williams 90+2)
Hanover 1 (Delpierre og 26) Att: 23,575

Werder Bremen 2 (De Bruyne 23, Junuzovic 34)
Stuttgart 2 (Harnik 50, Cacau 81) Att: 40,172

Tuesday, September 25
Bayern Munich 3 (Schweinsteiger 24, Mandzukic 57, 65)
Wolfsburg 0 Att: 71,000

Eintracht Frankfurt 3 (Aigner 49, Inui 51, Anderson 73)
Borussia Dortmund 3 (Piszczek 25, Reus 28, Gotze 54) Att: 51,500

Greuther Furth 0
Fortuna Dusseldorf 2 (Fink 26, Ilso 33) Att: 16,573

Schalke 3 (Farfan pen 21, Holtby 81, Pukki 89)
Mainz 0 Att: 59,116

Wednesday, September 26
Augsburg 1 (Werner 51)
Bayer Leverkusen 3 (Kiessling 7, Wollscheid 39, Schurrle 44) Att: 25,211

Freiburg 1 (Schmid 36)
Werder Bremen 2 (Akpala 48, Hunt 59) Att: 23,000

Hanover 4 (Stindl 21, Huszti 29, Ya Konan 52, 64)
Nuremberg 1 (Chandler 73) Att: 36,200

Monchengladbach 2 (Stranzl 39, Dominguez 90+1)
Hamburg 2 (Van der Vaart 23, Rudnevs 45) Att: 46,233

Stuttgart 0
Hoffenheim 3 (Usami 5, Joselu 47, Johnson 58) Att: 41,720

Friday, September 28
Fortuna Dusseldorf 2 (Schahin 48, 77)
Schalke 2 (Huntelaar 13, Matip 20) Att: 54,600

Saturday, September 29
Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Sam 51, 62)
Greuther Furth 0 Att: 25,798

Borussia Dortmund 5 (Reus 35, 70, Subotic 40, Gundogan 79, Blaszczykowski 85)
Monchengladbach 0 Att: 80,645

Hamburg 1 (Rudnevs 20)
Hanover 0 Att: 57,000

Hoffenheim 0
Augsburg 0 Att: 22,000

Nuremberg 0
Stuttgart 2 (Ibisevic 1, Harnik 75) Att: 43,018

Werder Bremen 0
Bayern Munich 2 (Luiz Gustavo 81, Mandzukic 83) Att: 42,100

Sunday, September 30
Eintracht Frankfurt 2 (Meier 68, 73)
Freiburg 1 (Kruse 50) Att: 49,300

Wolfsburg 0
Mainz 2 (Diaz 27, Szalai 37) Att: 23,795

Friday, October 5
Augsburg 3 (Werner 2, Hain 32, Baier 72)
Werder Bremen 1 (De Bruyne 19) Att: 28,133

Saturday, October 6
Bayern Munich 2 (Ribery 19, 47)
Hoffenheim 0 Att: 71,000

Freiburg 3 (Makiadi 36, Caligiuri pen 90+2, Terrazzino 90+3)
Nuremberg 0 Att: 22,800

Greuther Furth 0
Hamburg 1 (Son 17) Att: 18,000

Mainz 1 (Noveski 85)
Fortuna Dusseldorf 0 Att: 31,577

Schalke 3 (Farfan 33, Afellay 46, Neustadter 58)
Wolfsburg 0 Att: 60,671

Sunday, October 7
Hanover 1 (Diouf 86)
Borussia Dortmund 1 (Lewandowski 26) Att: 49,000

Monchengladbach 2 (Arango 8, De Jong 24)
Eintracht Frankfurt 0 Att: 51,193

Stuttgart 2 (Ibisevic pen 19, 55)
Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Kiessling 13, 59) Att: 47,400

GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayern	7	7	0	0	21	2	21
Eintracht	7	5	1	1	16	10	16
Schalke	7	4	2	1	15	7	14
Dortmund	7	3	3	1	17	9	12
Hanover	7	3	2	2	15	10	11
Leverkusen	7	3	2	2	11	9	11
Fortuna	7	2	4	1	6	3	10
Hamburg	7	3	1	3	9	10	10
Mainz	7	3	1	3	7	8	10
M'gladbach	7	2	3	2	9	12	9
Freiburg	7	2	2	3	11	10	8
Werder	7	2	1	4	10	13	7
Hoffenheim	7	2	1	4	10	14	7
Nuremberg	7	2	1	4	7	14	7
Stuttgart	7	1	3	3	7	14	6
Augsburg	7	1	2	4	5	11	5
Wolfsburg	7	1	2	4	2	13	5
Greuther Furth	7	1	1	5	2	11	4

34-round season (17x2); bottom 2 will be relegated. 3rd bottom will enter rel/prom play-off

Leading scorer
6 Mario Mandzukic (Bayern Munich)

GREECE

Sep 15: Panthrakikos 1 Panathinaikos 0; Levadiakos 0 Veria 0; Giannina 1 Olympiakos 2.
Sep 16: Kerkyra 1 Xanthi 1; PAOK 2 Asteras 1; Platanias 0 Atromitos 0; AEK 1 Aris 1.
Sep 17: Panionios 2 OFI 1.
Sep 22: Asteras 2 Platanias 1; Levadiakos 3 Panionios 0; Xanthi 0 PAOK 3.
Sep 23: Veria 1 Giannina 0; Aris 1 Kerkyra 0; OFI 2 AEK 1; Olympiakos 4 Panthrakikos 1.
Sep 24: Panathinaikos 1 Atromitos 1.
Sep 29: Kerkyra 2 OFI 1; Panionios 1 AEK 0; Atromitos 0 Olympiakos 1.
Sep 30: Panthrakikos 0 Veria 1; Panathinaikos 0 Asteras 0; Platanias 3 Xanthi 2; PAOK 4 Aris 1.
Oct 1: Giannina 1 Levadiakos 0.
Oct 6: AEK 1 Kerkyra 1; Veria 2 Atromitos 2; OFI 1 PAOK 1.
Oct 7: Giannina 1 Panionios 2; Xanthi 1 Panathinaikos 2; Aris 0 Platanias 2; Olympiakos 1 Asteras 0.
Oct 8: Levadiakos 0 Panthrakikos 3.

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olympiakos	6	6	0	0	14	3	18
Panionios	6	5	0	1	7	5	15
PAOK	6	4	1	1	11	4	13
Platanias	6	3	2	1	8	4	11
Asteras	6	3	1	2	7	4	10
Atromitos	6	2	3	1	6	4	9
Veria	6	2	2	2	5	5	8
Panathinaikos[1]	6	2	3	1	5	4	7
OFI	6	1	3	2	5	6	6
Panthrakikos	6	2	0	4	5	8	6
Aris	6	1	2	3	3	8	5
Xanthi	6	1	2	3	5	9	5
Kerkyra	6	1	2	3	4	9	5
Giannina	6	1	2	3	4	6	5
Levadiakos	6	1	1	4	3	9	4
AEK	6	0	2	4	3	7	2

30-round season (15x2); teams placed 2nd to 5th will enter play-offs for Greece's 2nd Champions League spot, bottom 2 will be relegated

[1]2pts deducted for fan violence during the 2011-12 home league game against Olympiakos

HOLLAND

Sep 15: Ajax 2 RKC 0; VVV 2 NEC 2; Heerenveen 1 Den Haag 3; Willem II 2 Twente 6; Feyenoord 2 Zwolle 0.
Sep 16: Heracles 2 NAC 1; AZ 4 Roda JC 0; Utrecht 1 PSV 0; Groningen 0 Vitesse 3.
Sep 21: Roda JC 0 Utrecht 1.
Sep 22: Zwolle 1 Groningen 2; RKC 1 VVV 1; Vitesse 1 Heracles 1; NEC 0 Willem II 0.
Sep 23: Den Haag 1 Ajax 1; Twente 1 Heerenveen 0; NAC 2 AZ 1; PSV 3 Feyenoord 0.
Sep 29: Heerenveen 2 NAC 0; Feyenoord 5 NEC 1; Utrecht 1 Vitesse 2; Heracles 3 Den Haag 3; Ajax 1 Twente 0.
Sep 30: AZ 3 RKC 3; Willem II 0 Zwolle 1; Groningen 3 Roda JC 2; VVV 0 PSV 6.
Oct 5: NEC 1 Den Haag 1.
Oct 6: Willem II 1 RKC 0; Zwolle 0 Heracles 3; Vitesse 3 Heerenveen 3; Roda JC 3 VVV 0.
Oct 7: Ajax 1 Utrecht 1; PSV 4 NAC 0; Groningen 2 Feyenoord 2; Twente 3 AZ 0.

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Twente	8	7	0	1	19	5	21
PSV	8	6	0	2	28	6	18
Vitesse	8	5	3	0	15	7	18
Ajax	8	4	4	0	20	7	16
Feyenoord	8	4	2	2	13	9	14
Utrecht	8	3	3	2	9	7	12
Den Haag	8	2	5	1	16	13	11
Groningen	8	3	2	3	11	16	11
Heracles	8	2	4	2	13	12	10
RKC	8	2	4	2	11	12	10
AZ	8	2	3	3	14	16	9
NEC	8	2	3	3	12	17	9
Heerenveen	8	1	4	3	9	12	7
Roda JC	8	2	1	5	9	15	7
Willem II	8	1	3	4	5	14	6
Zwolle	8	1	2	5	4	14	5
NAC	8	1	2	5	5	17	5
VVV	8	0	3	5	7	21	3

34-round season (17x2); bottom team will be relegated, 2nd & 3rd bottom will enter rel/prom play-offs

ICELAND

ICELAND – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FH (C)	22	15	4	3	51	23	49
Breidablik	22	10	6	6	32	27	36
IBV	22	10	5	7	36	21	35
KR	22	10	5	7	39	32	35
Stjarnan	22	8	10	4	44	38	34
IA	22	9	5	8	32	36	32
Fylkir	22	8	7	7	30	39	31
Valur	22	9	1	12	34	34	28
Keflavik	22	8	3	11	35	38	27
Fram	22	8	3	11	31	36	27
Selfoss (R)	22	6	3	13	30	44	21
Grindavik (R)	22	2	6	14	31	57	12

ISRAEL

ISRAEL – REGULAR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ashdod	6	5	0	1	12	4	15
M Tel Aviv	6	5	0	1	13	6	15
H Tel Aviv	5	4	0	1	6	1	12
Acre	6	3	2	1	11	6	11
R HaSharon	6	3	2	1	9	6	11
Bnei Yehuda	6	2	3	1	9	8	9
Kiryat Shmona	5	2	1	2	7	9	7
Netanya	6	2	1	3	4	8	7
Be'er Sheva	5	1	3	1	6	5	6
Ramat Gan	6	1	2	3	6	8	5
M Haifa	6	1	2	3	5	7	5
Beitar	5	0	2	3	6	9	2
H Haifa	6	0	2	4	3	11	2
Bnei Sakhnin	6	0	2	4	5	14	2

Standings on Oct 9

26-round regular season (13x2); top 6 will form championship group, bottom 8 will form relegation group (from which the bottom 2 will go down)

ITALY

Saturday, September 15
Milan 0
Atalanta 1 (Cigarini 64) Att: 34,763

Palermo 1 (Arevalo 41)
Cagliari 1 (Sau 88) Att: 19,000

Sunday, September 16
Chievo 1 (Pellissier pen 83)
Lazio 3 (Hernanes 5, 74, Klose 38) Att: 11,000

take part in the rematch, we will not play again this season."

PORTUGAL

Worldwide ban

Benfica captain Luisao was handed a two-month worldwide ban after he attacked the referee during his club's pre-season friendly against Fortuna Dusseldorf of Germany.

Off...referee Christian Fischer is knocked over by Luisao (second right)

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

New Laws for Rovers

Shamrock Rovers replaced Stephen Kenny with former Burnley manager Brian Laws on the eve of the League Cup Final, but lost 3-1 to Drogheda United.

Derry City striker Mark Farren, who underwent brain surgery in 2010, scored a hat-trick in a 7-1 FAI Cup win over Mervue United.

New position...Laws

Fiorentina 2 (Jovetic 43, Toni 65)
Catania 0 Att: 21,835

Genoa 1 (Immobile 18)
Juventus 3 (Giaccherini 61, Vucinic pen 78, Asamoah 84) Att: 24,854

Napoli 3 (Cavani pen 3, Pandev 39, Insigne 77)
Parma 1 (Parolo 44) Att: 31,333

Pescara 2 (Celik 75, Caprari 90)
Sampdoria 3 (Lopez 31, 76, Estigarribia 60)
Att: 11,736

Roma 2 (Florenzi 6, Lamela 16)
Bologna 3 (Gilardino 72, 90+1, Diamanti 73)
Att: 44,494

Siena 2 (Calaio 70, Ze Eduardo pen 77)
Udinese 2 (Basta 3, Di Natale 5) Att: 7,831

Torino 0
Internazionale 2 (Milito 13, Cassano 83)
Att: 25,753

Saturday, September 22

Juventus 2 (Quagliarella 63, 68)
Chievo 0 Att: 38,136

Parma 1 (Valdes pen 90+3)
Fiorentina 1 (Roncaglia 20) Att: 12,980

Sunday, September 23

Atalanta 1 (Raimondi 88)
Palermo 0 Att: 13,467

Bologna 1 (Gilardino 9)
Pescara 1 (Quintero 40) Att: 22,491

Cagliari 0
Roma 3
Awarded result. Originally, Cagliari had been ordered to play the game behind closed doors because their stadium had not received the requisite safety certificates. The game was then cancelled because of safety concerns after Cagliari's president invited season ticket holders to attend the game anyway

Catania 0
Napoli 0 Att: 13,808

Internazionale 0
Siena 2 (Vergassola 73, Valiani 90+2) Att: 40,357

Lazio 0
Genoa 1 (Borriello 79) Att: 32,446

Sampdoria 1 (Pozzi pen 84)
Torino 1 (Bianchi pen 69) Att: 23,859

Udinese 2 (Ranegie 40, Di Natale pen 68)
Milan 1 (El Shaarawy 54) Att: 22,976

Tuesday, September 25

Fiorentina 0
Juventus 0 Att: 37,548

Wednesday, September 26

Catania 2 (Spolli 52, Barrientos 64)
Atalanta 1 (Moralez 50) Att: 13,240

Chievo 0
Internazionale 2 (Pereira 43, Cassano 74)
Att: 12,000

Genoa 1 (Borriello pen 88)
Parma 1 (Lucarelli 27) Att: 17,511

Milan 2 (El Shaarawy 15, 82)
Cagliari 0 Att: 28,005

Napoli 3 (Cavani 19, 31, 64)
Lazio 0 Att: 34,433

Pescara 1 (Weiss 86)
Palermo 0 Att: 11,411

Roma 1 (Totti 35)
Sampdoria 1 (Munari 62) Att: 37,125

Torino 0
Udinese 0 Att: 12,232

Thursday, September 27

Siena 1 (Calaio 61)
Bologna 0 Att: 8,180

Saturday, September 29

Juventus 4 (Pirlo 11, Vidal pen 16, Matri 19, Giovinco 90)
Roma 1 (Osvaldo pen 69) Att: 38,327

Parma 1 (Galloppa 66)
Milan 1 (El Shaarawy 50) Att: 14,239

Sunday, September 30

Atalanta 1 (Denis 28)
Torino 5 (Bianchi pen 38, 76, Gazzi 62, Stevanovic 66, D'Ambrosio 73) Att: 13,738

Bologna 4 (Guarente 19, Gilardino 40, 61, Kone 90+5)
Catania 0 Att: 21,456

Cagliari 1 (Pinilla pen 82)
Pescara 2 (Terlizzi 50, Weiss 76) Att: 4,398

Internazionale 2 (Milito pen 17, Cassano 34)
Fiorentina 1 (Romulo 40) Att: 41,082

Lazio 2 (Ederson 17, Ledesma pen 38)
Siena 1 (Paci 90+1) Att: 28,512

Palermo 4 (Miccoli 13, 60, 82, Giorgi 80)
Chievo 1 (M Rigoni 28) Att: 12,411

Sampdoria 0
Napoli 1 (Cavani pen 67) Att: 24,702

Udinese 0
Genoa 0 Att: 15,396

Saturday, October 6

Chievo 2 (Thereau 45, Di Michele 87)
Sampdoria 1 (Maresca 61) Att: 10,000

Genoa 1 (Borriello 52)
Palermo 1 (Giorgi 14) Att: 18,538

Sunday, October 7

Catania 2 (Gomez 2, Bergessio 80)
Parma 0 Att: 11,470

Fiorentina 1 (Jovetic 7)
Bologna 0 Att: 20,983

Milan 0
Internazionale 1 (Samuel 3) Att: 73,736

Napoli 2 (Hamsik 30, Pandev 45+1)
Udinese 1 (Pinzi 43) Att: 43,148

Pescara 0
Lazio 3 (Hernanes 5, Klose 25, 35) Att: 12,430

Roma 2 (Lamela 30, Bradley 62)
Atalanta 0 Att: 40,155

Siena 1 (Calaio 45+2)
Juventus 2 (Pirlo 14, Marchisio 85) Att: 15,373

Torino 0
Cagliari 1 (Nene pen 74) Att: 14,746

ITALY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	7	6	1	0	17	4	19
Napoli	7	6	1	0	14	3	19
Lazio	7	5	0	2	12	6	15
Inter	7	5	0	2	11	6	15
Roma	7	3	2	2	14	11	11
Fiorentina	7	3	2	2	8	6	11
Catania	7	3	2	2	9	11	11
Sampdoria[1]	7	3	2	2	9	8	10
Genoa	7	2	3	2	8	8	9
Torino[1]	7	2	3	2	9	5	8
Milan	7	2	1	4	7	7	7
Bologna	7	2	1	4	9	10	7
Pescara	7	2	1	4	6	14	7
Udinese	7	1	3	3	7	11	6
Parma	7	1	3	3	6	10	6
Chievo	7	2	0	5	6	14	6
Palermo	7	1	2	4	6	11	5
Atalanta[2]	7	2	1	4	5	11	5
Cagliari	7	1	2	4	4	11	5
Siena[3]	7	2	2	3	8	8	2

38-round season (19x2); bottom 3 will be relegated
[1]1pt deducted [2]2pts deducted [3]6pts deducted – all for involvement in match-fixing scandal

Leading scorers

6 Edinson Cavani (Napoli)
5 Alberto Gilardino (Bologna)
5 Stevan Jovetic (Fiorentina)
5 Miroslav Klose (Lazio)

NORWAY

Sep 14: Stromsgodset 4 Aalesund 0.
Sep 15: Molde 1 Haugesund 0.
Sep 16: Fredrikstad 2 Sogndal 1; Odd Grenland 1 Stabaek 2; Sandnes Ulf 3 Brann 3; Honefoss 2 Viking 2; Rosenborg 3 Valerenga 0.
Sep 17: Tromso 5 Lillestrom 1.
Sep 21: Viking 3 Stromsgodset 2.
Sep 22: Aalesund 1 Lillestrom 2.
Sep 23: Stabaek 0 Fredrikstad 1; Haugesund 3 Sandnes Ulf 2; Sogndal 1 Tromso 0; Odd Grenland 0 Molde 0; Brann 2 Rosenborg 1.
Sep 24: Valerenga 3 Honefoss 2.
Sep 28: Rosenborg 5 Haugesund 2.
Sep 29: Lillestrom 0 Viking 0.
Sep 30: Tromso 1 Aalesund 0; Sandnes Ulf 0 Odd Grenland 0; Honefoss 0 Sogndal 0; Molde 4 Stabaek 3; Stromsgodset 2 Brann 0.
Oct 1: Fredrikstad 1 Valerenga 2.
Oct 5: Valerenga 1 Stromsgodset 1.
Oct 6: Viking 1 Aalesund 1.
Oct 7: Stabaek 0 Tromso 1; Haugesund 1 Fredrikstad 0; Sogndal 1 Lillestrom 0; Molde 3 Sandnes Ulf 2; Odd Grenland 0 Rosenborg 1.
Oct 8: Brann 3 Honefoss 2.

NORWAY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Molde	25	16	3	6	44	29	51
Rosenborg	25	13	10	2	46	20	49
Stromsgodset	25	14	6	5	52	33	48
Tromso	24	12	6	6	39	24	42
Brann	25	12	3	10	50	38	39
Valerenga	25	11	5	9	38	36	38
Haugesund	25	10	7	8	41	33	37
Viking	25	10	7	8	34	32	37
Honefoss	25	7	10	8	28	32	31
Aalesund	25	7	9	9	31	33	30
Odd Grenland	25	8	6	11	29	38	30
Lillestrom	25	6	10	9	34	43	28
Sogndal	25	6	9	10	23	32	27
Fredrikstad	25	7	3	15	33	46	24
Sandnes Ulf	24	5	7	12	30	47	22
Stabaek	25	4	1	20	22	58	13

30-round season (15x2); bottom 2 will be relegated, 3rd bottom will enter rel/prom play-off

POLAND

Sep 14: Podbeskidzie 1 Slask 1; Pogon 2 Wisla 0.
Sep 15: Polonia 1 Jagiellonia 1; Lechia 1 Piast 2; Ruch 1 Korona 1.
Sep 16: Zaglebie 0 Widzew 1; Gornik 2 Legia 2.
Sep 17: Belchatow 0 Lech 1.
Sep 21: Korona 2 Podbeskidzie 1; Legia 1 Polonia 1.
Sep 22: Jagiellonia 0 Piast 2; Ruch 2 Zaglebie 1; Wisla 1 Lechia 0.
Sep 23: Slask 2 Belchatow 1; Lech 1 Pogon 1.
Sep 24: Widzew 1 Gornik 1.
Sep 28: Podbeskidzie 1 Ruch 2; Polonia 3 Widzew 1.
Sep 29: Belchatow 1 Korona 1; Pogon 1 Jagiellonia 1; Zaglebie 2 Legia 2.
Sep 30: Gornik 4 Slask 1; Lechia 2 Lech 0.
Oct 1: Piast 2 Wisla 0.
Oct 5: Ruch 2 Belchatow 1; Legia 2 Wisla 1.
Oct 6: Korona 1 Zaglebie 0; Podbeskidzie 1 Gornik 3; Lech 4 Piast 0.
Oct 7: Widzew 1 Pogon 3; Slask 2 Polonia 1.
Oct 8: Jagiellonia 0 Lechia 2.

POLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Legia	7	4	3	0	16	7	15
Lech	7	4	2	1	12	4	14
Gornik	7	3	4	0	13	7	13
Slask	7	4	1	2	10	9	13
Widzew	7	4	1	2	9	8	13
Lechia	7	4	0	3	9	6	12
Piast	7	4	0	3	9	9	12
Pogon	7	3	2	2	11	6	11
Polonia	7	3	2	2	13	9	11
Ruch	7	3	1	3	7	11	10
Korona	7	2	2	3	5	10	8
Jagiellonia	7	1	4	2	5	8	7
Wisla	7	2	1	4	6	11	7
Zaglebie[1]	7	1	2	4	5	11	2
Podbeskidzie	7	0	2	5	7	14	2
Belchatow	7	0	1	6	4	11	1

30-round season (15x2); bottom 2 will be relegated
[1]3pts deducted for match-fixing

PORTUGAL

Sep 16: Maritimo 1 Sporting 1.
Sep 21: Moreirense 0 Guimaraes 1.
Sep 22: Porto 4 Beira Mar 0.
Sep 23: Setubal 1 Olhanense 0; Nacional 3 Pacos de Ferreira 3; Braga 4 Rio Ave 1; Academica 2 Benfica 2.
Sep 24: Estoril 3 Maritimo 1; Sporting 2 Gil Vicente 1.
Sep 28: Pacos de Ferreira 1 Benfica 2; Guimaraes 0 Braga 2.
Sep 29: Sporting 2 Estoril 2; Rio Ave 2 Porto 2.

ROMANIA

Long server

Dinamo Bucharest striker Ionel Danciulescu made his 491st Romanian first division appearance in his side's 2-2 draw with Gaz Metan Medias to set a new record for the country's top flight.

The 35-year-old is also the second-highest scorer in the history of the Romanian elite, his tally of 210 goals leaving him 42 shy of Dudu Georgescu.

SPAIN

Casillas catching up

Iker Casillas played his 462nd La Liga game for Real Madrid in the 2-0 win away to Rayo Vallecano, taking him to third in the club's list of all-time league appearances behind Manuel Sanchis (524) and Raul (550).

Victorious...goalscorer Neymar holds up the Recopa trophy

BRAZIL

A first for Santos

Santos won their first Recopa title, beating Universidad de Chile 2-0 with goals from Neymar and Bruno Rodrigo in front of their own fans after a goalless first leg.

It was the seventh time a Brazilian club had won the competition that pits the champions of the

Sep 30: Beira Mar 1 Setubal 1; Olhanense 1 Nacional 2; Gil Vicente 4 Moreirense 3; Maritimo 0 Academica 2.
Oct 6: Benfica 2 Beira Mar 1.
Oct 7: Setubal 0 Pacos de Ferreira 0; Nacional 0 Gil Vicente 1; Braga 4 Olhanense 4; Estoril 1 Rio Ave 3; Academica 1 Guimaraes 2; Porto 2 Sporting 0.
Oct 8: Moreirense 0 Maritimo 1.

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Porto	6	4	2	0	15	4	14
Benfica	6	4	2	0	16	6	14
Braga	6	3	2	1	15	10	11
Gil Vicente	6	2	3	1	6	5	9
Rio Ave	6	2	2	2	7	8	8
Maritimo	6	2	2	2	4	6	8
Guimaraes	6	2	2	2	5	9	8
Academica	6	1	4	1	9	8	7
P de Ferreira	6	1	4	1	8	7	7
Setubal	6	1	4	1	4	8	7
Estoril	6	1	3	2	10	11	6
Sporting	6	1	3	2	5	7	6
Moreirense	6	1	2	3	8	9	5
Olhanense	6	1	2	3	10	12	5
Nacional	6	1	2	3	8	13	5
Beira Mar	6	0	3	3	7	14	3

30-round season (15x2); bottom 2 will be relegated

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Sep 21: Bray 0 Sligo 0; Bohemians 1 Cork 1; Derry 1 UCD 2; Dundalk 0 Shelbourne 1.
Sep 25: St Patrick's 2 Shamrock 1.
Sep 28: Drogheda 0 St Patrick's 0; UCD 2 Bohemians 2; Shamrock 7 Dundalk 0; Shelbourne 0 Bray 0.
Sep 29: Sligo 4 Derry 1.
Oct 1: Drogheda 2 Shelbourne 1; St Patrick's 5 UCD 0.
Oct 2: Derry 4 Dundalk 0.
Oct 5: Bray 1 Shamrock 3; Cork 0 Sligo 0.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND[1]

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sligo	27	16	10	1	49	17	58
St Patrick's	27	14	10	3	40	17	52
Drogheda	27	15	6	6	45	33	51
Shamrock	27	12	10	5	51	33	46
Cork	27	7	12	8	33	32	33
Derry	28	9	6	13	31	34	33
Bohemians	27	8	8	11	28	31	32
Shelbourne	28	8	7	13	31	40	31
UCD	27	7	6	14	29	45	27
Bray	28	5	10	13	31	48	25
Dundalk	27	3	7	17	19	57	16

30-round season (10x3); bottom team will enter rel/prom play-off

[1]Monaghan withdrew from league after 14 games; results expunged

ROMANIA

Sep 14: Ceahlaul 2 Brasov 1; Dinamo 0 CFR 1.
Sep 15: Gaz Metan 1 Concordia 3; Otelul 1 Viitorul 1; Rapid 3 Gloria 1.
Sep 16: Petrolul 4 Pandurii 0; Iasi 0 Steaua 3.
Sep 17: Universitatea 1 Astra 3; Vaslui 2 Turnu Severin 1.
Sep 21: Concordia 2 Ceahlaul 1; Gloria 1 Petrolul 1.
Sep 22: Turnu Severin 1 Otelul 1; Universitatea 1 Dinamo 2.
Sep 23: Brasov 2 Vaslui 1; Astra 4 Gaz Metan 0; Pandurii 2 CFR 1.
Sep 24: Viitorul 1 Iasi 0; Steaua 1 Rapid 0.
Sep 29: Gaz Metan 2 Universitatea 1; CFR 5 Gloria 1; Vaslui 3 Concordia 0.
Sep 30: Otelul 0 Brasov 0; Iasi 1 Turnu Severin 0; Rapid 2 Viitorul 1; Petrolul 1 Steaua 2.
Oct 1: Ceahlaul 3 Astra 2; Dinamo 3 Pandurii 0.
Oct 5: Universitatea 1 Ceahlaul 0; Astra 1 Vaslui 1.
Oct 6: Viitorul 1 Petrolul 2; Turnu Severin 0 Rapid 1; Gaz Metan 2 Dinamo 2.
Oct 7: Gloria 1 Pandurii 3; Steaua 1 CFR 0.
Oct 8: Brasov 1 Iasi 0; Concordia 0 Otelul 0.

ROMANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Steaua	11	9	1	1	24	10	28
Pandurii	11	8	1	2	22	14	25
Astra	11	6	3	2	25	15	21
Vaslui	11	5	4	2	20	12	19
Dinamo	10	5	3	2	18	11	18
Rapid	10	5	3	2	13	10	18
CFR	11	4	4	3	21	15	16
Petrolul	11	4	4	3	20	14	16
Brasov	11	4	4	3	16	14	16
Concordia	11	4	3	4	12	16	15
Universitatea	11	4	2	5	14	21	14
Gaz Metan	11	3	4	4	12	18	13
Viitorul	11	2	5	4	13	13	11
Ceahlaul	11	3	2	6	12	23	11
Otelul[1]	11	1	6	4	11	14	7
Gloria	11	1	3	7	8	22	6
Iasi	11	1	2	8	8	19	5
Turnu Severin	11	0	4	7	7	15	4

34-round season (17x2); bottom 4 will be relegated

[1]2pts deducted because of outstanding debts

RUSSIA

Sep 14: Zenit 0 Terek 2.
Sep 15: Lokomotiv 1 Rubin 0; Kuban 2 Spartak Moscow 2.
Sep 16: CSKA 2 Alania 0; Anzhi 5 Krasnodar 2; Rostov 1 Dynamo 0.
Sep 17: Amkar 3 Volga 2; Mordovia 2 Krylia Sovetov 3.
Sep 21: Krasnodar 6 Mordovia 1.
Sep 22: Volga 2 CSKA 3; Dynamo 3 Amkar 2; Krylia Sovetov 2 Zenit 2; Terek 0 Lokomotiv 3.
Sep 23: Spartak Moscow 3 Rostov 1; Rubin 1 Kuban 0.
Sep 24: Alania 0 Anzhi 1.
Sep 29: Zenit 1 Lokomotiv 1; Amkar 1 Spartak Moscow 3; Kuban 2 Terek 1.
Sep 30: CSKA 0 Dynamo 2; Anzhi 2 Volga 1; Rostov 0 Rubin 4.
Oct 1: Krylia Sovetov 2 Krasnodar 2; Mordovia 1 Alania 1.
Oct 5: Terek 2 Rostov 1.
Oct 6: Lokomotiv 0 Kuban 1; Volga 0 Mordovia 2; Alania 2 Krylia Sovetov 2.
Oct 7: Dynamo 0 Anzhi 2; Rubin 0 Amkar 1; Spartak Moscow 0 CSKA 2; Krasnodar 0 Zenit 2.

RUSSIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Anzhi	11	8	2	1	22	11	26
CSKA	11	8	0	3	18	10	24
Terek	11	7	1	3	15	15	22
Zenit	11	6	3	2	22	9	21
Lokomotiv	11	6	2	3	19	13	20
Kuban	11	6	1	4	19	14	19
Spartak M	11	6	1	4	20	18	19
Rubin	11	6	0	5	17	11	18
Amkar	11	4	3	4	15	15	15
Krylia Sovetov	11	3	4	4	15	20	13
Krasnodar	11	3	3	5	18	18	12
Alania	11	2	4	5	16	18	10
Rostov	11	2	3	6	10	19	9
Dynamo	11	3	0	8	10	20	9
Mordovia	11	2	2	7	13	24	8
Volga	11	1	1	9	11	25	4

30-round season (15x2); bottom 2 will be relegated, 3rd & 4th bottom will enter rel/prom play-offs

SCOTLAND

Regular season

Sep 14: Dundee United 0 Ross County 0.
Sep 15: St Johnstone 2 Celtic 1; Dundee 1 Motherwell 2; St Mirren 2 Hearts 0; Inverness 1 Aberdeen 1; Hibernian 2 Kilmarnock 1.
Sep 22: Dundee United 0 Hearts 3; Hibernian 2 Inverness 2; Kilmarnock 3 St Mirren 1; Ross County 1 St Johnstone 2; Celtic 2 Dundee 0.
Sep 23: Aberdeen 3 Motherwell 3.
Sep 29: Aberdeen 2 Hibernian 1; Hearts 1 Kilmarnock 3; Inverness 4 Dundee United 0; Motherwell 0 Celtic 2; St Mirren 5 Ross County 4; Dundee 1 St Johnstone 3.
Oct 5: Inverness 3 Ross County 1.
Oct 6: Kilmarnock 1 Aberdeen 3; St Johnstone 2 St Mirren 1; Hibernian 3 Dundee 0.
Oct 7: Celtic 1 Hearts 0.

SCOTLAND – REGULAR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Celtic	8	5	2	1	14	7	17
Hibernian	9	4	3	2	15	12	15
Aberdeen	9	3	5	1	11	8	14
St Johnstone	9	4	2	3	11	11	14
Motherwell	8	3	4	1	13	10	13
Kilmarnock	9	3	3	3	13	11	12
St Mirren	9	3	3	3	15	14	12
Inverness	9	2	5	2	18	17	11
Hearts	9	2	3	4	9	10	9
Ross County	9	1	5	3	8	11	8
Dundee Utd	7	2	2	3	7	10	8
Dundee	9	1	1	7	3	16	4

33-round regular season (11x3); top 6 will form championship group, bottom 6 will form relegation group (from which the bottom team will go down)

SPAIN

Saturday, September 15

Getafe 1 (Mascherano og 80)
Barcelona 4 (Adriano 32, Messi pen 74, 78, Villa 90) Att: 8,634

Malaga 3 (Saviola 27, Joaquin 59, Portillo 90+3)
Levante 1 (Michel 46) Att: 30,000

Sevilla 1 (Trochowski 2)
Real Madrid 0 Att: 30,000

Valencia 2 (Feghouli 4, Cissokho 50)
Celta Vigo 1 (Cabral 16) Att: 40,000

Sunday, September 16

Atletico Madrid 4 (Suarez 29, Koke 49, Arda 51, Falcao pen 56)
Rayo Vallecano 3 (Delibasic 82, 85, Leo 89) Att: 45,000

Espanyol 3 (Javi Lopez 18, Verdu 44, Longo 80)
Athletic Bilbao 3 (Aduriz 56, 85, Llorente 70) Att: 22,000

Granada 1 (Floro Flores 81)
Deportivo La Coruna 1 (Nelson Oliveira 41) Att: 9,916

Osasuna 1 (Kike Sola 69)
Mallorca 1 (Hemed 78) Att: 14,698

Real Sociedad 2 (Inigo Martinez 55, Vela pen 61)
Zaragoza 0 Att: 20,000

Monday, September 17

Valladolid 0
Betis 1 (Ruben Castro 89) Att: 13,600

Saturday, September 22

Barcelona 2 (Xavi 87, Borja Gomez og 90+2)
Granada 0 Att: 80,000

Betis 1 (Paulao 18)
Espanyol 0 Att: 33,211

Celta Vigo 2 (Fernandez 57, Park 68)
Getafe 1 (Barrada 59) Att: 18,000

Zaragoza 3 (Helder Postiga 4, Timor og 45, Apono pen 71)
Osasuna 1 (Armenteros 29) Att: 18,000

Sunday, September 23

Athletic Bilbao 0
Malaga 0 Att: 38,000

Atletico Madrid 2 (Godin 31, Falcao pen 45)
Valladolid 1 (Bueno 55) Att: 45,000

Levante 2 (Barkero pen 70, Martins 86)
Real Sociedad 1 (Zurutuza 23) Att: 13,100

Mallorca 2 (Victor 8, Arizmendi 55)
Valencia 0 Att: 14,495

Monday, September 24

Deportivo La Coruna 0
Sevilla 2 (Negredo 75, Rakitic 84) Att: 27,000

Rayo Vallecano 0
Real Madrid 2 (Benzema 13, Cristiano Ronaldo pen 70) Att: 9,747

Wednesday, September 26

Betis 2 (Agra 25, Juanfran og 45)
Atletico Madrid 4 (Falcao 28, pen 48, Diego Costa 55, Raul Garcia 90+3) Att: 33,261

Saturday, September 29

Malaga 4 (Joaquin pen 13, Saviola 28, Amaya og 72, Isco 74)
Betis 0 Att: 27,000

Real Sociedad 2 (Griezmann 62, Vela pen 72)
Athletic Bilbao 0 Att: 28,000

Sevilla 2 (Trochowski 26, Negredo 48)
Barcelona 3 (Fabregas 53, 89, Villa 90+3) Att: 40,000

Valencia 2 (Feghouli 12, Viera 59)
Zaragoza 0 Att: 40,000

Sunday, September 30

Espanyol 0
Atletico Madrid 1 (Raul Garcia 30) Att: 21,888

Granada 2 (Siqueira pen 11, Torje 17)
Celta Vigo 1 (Iago Aspas 20) Att: 21,000

Osasuna 4 (Armenteros 55, Lamah 82, Timor pen 89, Nino 90+3)
Levante 0 Att: 14,101

Real Madrid 5 (Cristiano Ronaldo pen 23, 44, pen 84, Di Maria 38, Pepe 66)
Deportivo La Coruna 1 (Riki 16) Att: 75,000

Valladolid 6 (Bueno 10, Manucho 13, 86, Oscar 21, 56, Rukavina 37)
Rayo Vallecano 1 (Dominguez 5) Att: 14,978

Monday, October 1

Getafe 1 (Diego Castro 49)
Mallorca 0 Att: 10,000

Libertadores Cup against the winners of the Sudamericana Cup.

PARAGUAY

New club best

Julio Dos Santos made a club record 266th appearance for Cerro Porteno as they beat Venezuela's Mineros 4-0 to reach the last 16 of the Sudamericana Cup.

Loyal...Dos Santos

CAMEROON

Winning run for champs

Union Douala won their first league title since 1990, equalling the league record of 11 successive wins in the process.

Deposed champions Coton Sport finished runners-up and took the second Champions League berth. Panthere were third and enter the AFC Confederation Cup, while Aigle Royal, Tiko United and Scorpion were relegated.

GHANA

Super Cup double

Kofi Nti Boakye scored both goals as defending league champions Asante Kotoko beat New Edubiase United 2-0 in the season-opening Super Cup.

SOUTH AFRICA

Top 8 triumph

A late Bennett Chenene goal four minutes from time gave Moroka Swallows a 2-1 victory over SuperSport United in the Final of the Top 8 Cup.

Franklin Cale had put SuperSport in the lead before Georgian midfielder Giorgi Nergadze started Moroka's comeback.

Friday, October 5

Celta Vigo 2 (Iago Aspas pen 60, De Lucas 85)
Sevilla 0 Att: 19,247

Saturday, October 6

Betis 2 (Paulao 18, Ruben Castro 81)
Real Sociedad 0 Att: 30,000

Rayo Vallecano 2 (Piti 18, Jose Carlos 29)
Deportivo La Coruna 1 (Pizzi pen 41) Att: 11,516

Valladolid 1 (Oscar 81)
Espanyol 1 (Verdu pen 70) Att: 14,499

Zaragoza 0
Getafe 1 (Diego Castro pen 64) Att: 18,000

Sunday, October 7

Athletic Bilbao 1 (Aduriz 12)
Osasuna 0 Att: 35,000

Atletico Madrid 2 (Falcao 6, Weligton og 90)
Malaga 1 (Santa Cruz 36) Att: 52,000

Barcelona 2 (Messi 31, 61)
Real Madrid 2 (Cristiano Ronaldo 23, 66)
Att: 96,589

Levante 1 (Martins 22)
Valencia 0 Att: 20,060

Mallorca 1 (Hemed 86)
Granada 2 (El Arabi pen 65, Torje 76) Att: 11,665

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barcelona	7	6	1	0	19	7	19
Atletico	7	6	1	0	18	8	19
Malaga	7	4	2	1	11	4	14
Betis	7	4	0	3	12	13	12
Real Madrid	7	3	2	2	14	7	11
Mallorca	7	3	2	2	8	6	11
Sevilla	7	3	2	2	8	7	11
Valladolid	7	3	1	3	11	7	10
Getafe	7	3	1	3	8	10	10
Rayo	7	3	1	3	9	14	10
Levante	7	3	1	3	8	13	10
Celta	7	3	0	4	9	8	9
Sociedad	7	3	0	4	8	11	9
Valencia	7	2	2	3	8	9	8
Granada	7	2	2	3	6	10	8
Athletic	7	2	2	3	9	14	8
Zaragoza	7	2	0	5	5	9	6
Deportivo	7	1	3	3	9	14	6
Osasuna	7	1	1	5	7	11	4
Espanyol	7	0	2	5	8	13	2

38-round season (19x2); bottom 3 will be relegated

Leading scorers

8 Cristiano Ronaldo (Real Madrid)
8 Radamel Falcao (Atletico Madrid)
8 Lionel Messi (Barcelona)
5 Tomer Hemed (Mallorca)

SWEDEN

Sep 14: Syrianska 1 Norrkoping 2.
Sep 15: Mjallby 4 GAIS 0; Helsingborg 4 Sundsvall 0.
Sep 16: Djurgarden 0 AIK 3; IFK Gothenburg 2 Elfsborg 1.
Sep 17: Gefle 0 Hacken 2; Kalmar 1 Orebro 2; Atvidaberg 0 Malmo 1.
Sep 21: Djurgarden 0 Hacken 3.
Sep 22: Syrianska 2 Orebro 2.
Sep 23: Elfsborg 0 Sundsvall 0; Gefle 1 Mjallby 0; Norrkoping 2 AIK 2; Kalmar 2 Atvidaberg 0.
Sep 24: IFK Gothenburg 0 GAIS 0; Helsingborg 1 Malmo 1.
Sep 26: Atvidaberg 2 Djurgarden 1; Orebro 0 Norrkoping 1; Sundsvall 0 Gefle 1; Mjallby 1 Kalmar 0; AIK 1 Elfsborg 1.
Sep 27: Hacken 2 Helsingborg 2; Malmo 1 IFK Gothenburg 2.
Sep 28: GAIS 1 Syrianska 4.
Sep 30: Helsingborg 3 Atvidaberg 0; Sundsvall 2 AIK 3; Elfsborg 1 Orebro 0; Gefle 0 Kalmar 0.
Oct 1: Syrianska 0 Malmo 2; Norrkoping 7 GAIS 2; Djurgarden 0 Mjallby 1; IFK Gothenburg 1 Hacken 1.
Oct 5: Malmo 2 Norrkoping 0.
Oct 6: Hacken 5 Syrianska 1; Atvidaberg 1 IFK Gothenburg 2.
Oct 7: AIK 0 Gefle 1; Mjallby 0 Helsingborg 2; Kalmar 2 Djurgarden 2; GAIS 1 Elfsborg 2; Orebro 2 Sundsvall 2.

SWEDEN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Elfsborg	26	16	4	6	41	24	52
Hacken	26	15	5	6	61	31	50
Malmo	26	14	7	5	43	28	49
AIK	26	13	8	5	36	25	47
Helsingborg	26	11	9	6	44	29	42
Norrkoping	26	11	7	8	40	41	40
IFK Goth'burg	26	8	12	6	35	37	36
Kalmar	26	9	7	10	33	37	34
Djurgarden	26	7	12	7	32	35	33
Mjallby	26	8	9	9	29	32	33
Gefle	26	8	8	10	20	29	32
Atvidaberg	26	8	7	11	43	44	31
Syrianska	26	8	4	14	29	42	28
Sundsvall	26	6	9	11	31	37	27
Orebro	26	3	7	16	25	44	16
GAIS (R)	26	1	9	16	21	48	12

30-round season (15x2); bottom 2 will be relegated. 3rd bottom will enter rel/prom play-off

SWITZERLAND

Sep 22: Zurich 0 Grasshopper 1; Sion 2 Thun 1.
Sep 23: Lausanne 1 Lucerne 0; St Gallen 2 Servette 0; Young Boys 1 Basle 1.
Sep 26: Servette 0 Lausanne 1; Zurich 0 St Gallen 2; Basle 4 Sion 1.
Sep 27: Grasshopper 2 Lucerne 0; Thun 2 Young Boys 1.
Sep 29: Lausanne 1 Basle 1.
Sep 30: Lucerne 2 Thun 1; Young Boys 6 Servette 2; Sion 2 Zurich 2.
Oct 1: Grasshopper 1 St Gallen 0.
Oct 6: St Gallen 2 Lausanne 1; Thun 2 Grasshopper 3.
Oct 7: Sion 3 Lucerne 2; Zurich 1 Young Boys 1; Basle 3 Servette 2.

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Grasshopper	12	9	2	1	17	7	29
St Gallen	12	8	3	1	19	7	27
Sion	12	7	2	3	18	14	23
Basle	12	5	6	1	21	13	21
Young Boys	12	4	5	3	20	12	17
Thun	12	4	1	7	14	17	13
Lausanne	12	3	3	6	9	15	12
Zurich	12	2	5	5	12	17	11
Lucerne	12	2	3	7	12	20	9
Servette	12	0	2	10	7	27	2

36-round season (9x4); bottom team will be relegated

TURKEY

Sep 15: Kasimpasa 3 Gaziantepspor 0; Bursaspor 4 Karabukspor 1; Antalyaspor 0 Galatasaray 4.
Sep 16: Trabzonspor 1 Sivasspor 0; Eskisehirspor 4 Genclerbirligi 2; Akhisar 0 Istanbul BB 4; Fenerbahce 2 Mersin 1.
Sep 17: Besiktas 3 Elazigspor 0; Orduspor 3 Kayserispor 2.
Sep 21: Karabukspor 1 Antalyaspor 0.
Sep 22: Kayserispor 3 Eskisehirspor 2; Istanbul BB 1 Orduspor 1; Gaziantepspor 3 Besiktas 2; Mersin 1 Genclerbirligi 1.
Sep 23: Sivasspor 1 Kasimpasa 0; Elazigspor 1 Bursaspor 1; Galatasaray 3 Akhisar 0.
Sep 24: Fenerbahce 0 Trabzonspor 0.
Sep 28: Orduspor 2 Galatasaray 0.
Sep 29: Bursaspor 1 Gaziantepspor 1; Kasimpasa 2 Fenerbahce 0; Akhisar 1 Karabukspor 3.
Sep 30: Eskisehirspor 1 Istanbul BB 0; Trabzonspor 1 Mersin 1; Antalyaspor 4 Elazigspor 0; Genclerbirligi 4 Kayserispor 0.
Oct 1: Besiktas 0 Sivasspor 1.
Oct 5: Trabzonspor 1 Kasimpasa 0; Gaziantepspor 0 Antalyaspor 1; Karabukspor 1 Orduspor 1.
Oct 6: Istanbul BB 0 Genclerbirligi 2; Galatasaray 1 Eskisehirspor 1; Elazigspor 0 Akhisar 0.
Oct 7: Sivasspor 2 Bursaspor 2; Mersin 1 Kayserispor 2; Fenerbahce 3 Besiktas 0.

TURKEY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Galatasaray	7	4	2	1	16	9	14
Orduspor	7	3	4	0	10	5	13
Genclerbirligi	7	3	3	1	13	7	12
Kasimpasa	7	4	0	3	11	5	12
Fenerbahce	7	3	3	1	9	4	12
Trabzonspor	7	3	3	1	6	3	12
Antalyaspor	7	4	0	3	10	8	12
Sivasspor	7	3	3	1	8	6	12
Eskisehirspor	7	3	1	3	11	10	10
Bursaspor	7	2	3	2	11	9	9
Besiktas	7	2	2	3	12	11	8
Istanbul BB	7	2	2	3	7	6	8
Karabukspor	7	2	2	3	8	12	8
Gaziantepspor	7	2	1	4	5	11	7
Kayserispor	7	2	1	4	8	15	7
Akhisar	7	1	3	3	3	11	6
Mersin	7	0	4	3	8	12	4
Elazigspor	7	0	3	4	2	14	3

34-round season (17x2); bottom 3 will be relegated

UKRAINE

Sep 14: Dynamo 3 Karpaty 1.
Sep 15: Illichivets 0 Volyn 0; Dnipro 1 Chornomorets 0; Zorya 0 Shakhtar 3; Metalist 4 Vorskla 0.
Sep 16: Metalurh Zaporizhya 1 Hoverla 1; Metalurh Donetsk 5 Arsenal 0; Tavriya 2 Kryvbas 0.
Sep 28: Dynamo 1 Zorya 0; Shakhtar 2 Dnipro 1.
Sep 29: Volyn 0 Tavriya 1; Chornomorets 1 Metalist 1.
Sep 30: Hoverla 2 Metalurh Donetsk 1; Kryvbas 5 Metalurh Zaporizhya 0; Vorskla 1 Illichivets 0; Karpaty 1 Arsenal 1.
Oct 5: Metalurh Donetsk 6 Kryvbas 2.
Oct 6: Zorya 2 Karpaty 1; Illichivets 2 Chornomorets 1; Arsenal 2 Hoverla 0; Metalurh Zaporizhya 0 Volyn 3.
Oct 7: Tavriya 0 Vorskla 0; Dnipro 2 Dynamo 1; Metalist 0 Shakhtar 2.

UKRAINE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Shakhtar	11	11	0	0	36	5	33
Dnipro	11	7	3	1	22	9	24
Dynamo	11	8	0	3	18	9	24
Metalist	11	5	3	3	18	10	18
Arsenal	11	5	3	3	14	17	18
Metalurh D	11	5	2	4	20	13	17
Illichivets	11	5	1	5	15	10	16
Tavriya	11	4	3	4	9	10	15
Volyn	11	4	3	4	13	15	15
Zorya	11	4	2	5	12	15	14
Kryvbas	11	4	1	6	12	15	13
Vorskla	11	3	3	5	9	15	12
Chornomorets	11	3	2	6	10	18	11
Karpaty	11	2	3	6	11	21	9
Hoverla	11	2	1	8	10	24	7
Metalurh Z	11	0	2	9	4	27	2

30-round season (15x2); bottom 2 will be relegated

SOUTH AMERICA

RECOPA

(2011 Libertadores Cup winners, Santos v 2011 Sudamericana Cup winners, Universidad de Chile)

2nd leg

Sep 26

Santos (Bra) 2 (Neymar 28, Bruno Rodrigo 61)
Universidad de Chile (Chl) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 23,876. **Ref:** Vazquez (Uru)
Santos 2-0 on agg
Santos: Rafael - Bruno Peres (Ewerton Pascoa 71), Bruno Rodrigo, Durval, Leo (Gerson Magrao 54), Adriano, Arouca, Felipe Anderson, Rodriguez (Miralles 85), Neymar, Andre Felipe.
Universidad: Herrera - Acevedo (Magalhaes 72), Gonzalez, Rojas, Martinez, Mena, Rodriguez (Castro 46), Aranguiz (Marino 46), Lorenzetti, Gutierrez, Ubilla.

SUDAMERICANA CUP

2nd round

1st legs - July 31-Aug 30; 2nd legs - Aug 21-Sep 20

Argentinos Juniors (Arg) v Tigre (Arg)
1-2, 1-4 (agg 2-6)
Bahia (Bra) v Sao Paulo (Bra) 0-2, 0-2 (agg 0-4)
Boca Juniors (Arg) v Independiente (Arg)
3-3, 0-0 (agg 3-3, Independiente on away goals)
Cobreloa (Chl) v Barcelona (Ecu) 0-0, 3-4 (agg 3-4)
Colon (Arg) v Racing (Arg) 3-1, 2-1 (agg 5-2)
Deportivo Quito (Ecu) v Aurora (Bol) 2-1, 3-1 (agg 5-2)
Envigado (Col) v Liverpool (Uru) 1-1, 0-1 (agg 1-2)
Goianiense (Bra) v Figueirense (Bra)
1-1, 1-1 (agg 2-2, Goianiense 4-2 on pens)
Gremio (Bra) v Coritiba (Bra)
1-0, 2-3 (agg 3-3, Gremio on away goals)
Guarani (Par) v Millonarios (Col) 2-4, 1-1 (agg 3-5)
LDU Loja (Ecu) v Nacional (Uru)
0-1, 2-1 (agg 2-2, LDU on away goals)
Mineros (Ven) v Cerro Porteno (Par) 2-2, 0-4 (agg 2-6)
Olimpia (Par) v Emelec (Ecu) 0-1, 0-0 (agg 0-1)
Palmeiras (Bra) v Botafogo (Bra)
2-0, 1-3 (agg 3-3, Palmeiras on away goals)
Universidad Catolica (Chl) v Tolima (Col)
2-0, 1-3 (agg 3-3, Univ Catolica on away goals)

Bye to 3rd round:
Universidad de Chile (Chl; holders)

TUNISIA

Four on the trot

Esperance claimed the league championship for a fourth consecutive time – and 25th in total – finishing four points clear of Bizertin, who will join them in next season's CAF Champions League.

The club's Youssef Msakni was the league's top scorer with 17 goals.

Title winners...Esperance

JAPAN

Going down

Consadole Sapporo's 1-0 defeat at Kawasaki Frontale saw them become the first side to be relegated from the J.League this season.

MALAYSIA

Pitch problems

The domestic Cup Final has been moved from the 87,000-seat National Stadium in Kuala Lumpur for the second successive year as the pitch is not up to scratch.

The Final will now be played at the Shah Alam Stadium in Selangor.

SAUDI ARABIA

Local semi clash

Two-time winners Al Ittihad from Jeddah face their city rivals Al Ahli over two legs in the semi-finals of the AFC Champions League.

However, the country's hopes of becoming the first nation ever to have three teams through to the last four were dashed when South Korean side Ulsan Hyundai knocked out Riyadh's Al Hilal.

Bunyodkor of Uzbekistan complete the semi-final quartet of teams.

ARGENTINA

1st tournament

Sep 15: Tigre 2 Colon 2; All Boys 0 Argentinos 1; Racing 0 Estudiantes 1; Godoy Cruz 1 San Martin 0.
Sep 16: Boca 2 Independiente 1; Newell's 1 San Lorenzo 0; Velez 2 River Plate 0; Arsenal 0 Belgrano 2.
Sep 17: Union 0 Rafaela 0; Quilmes 0 Lanus 0.
Sep 21: Rafaela 3 Tigre 0; Belgrano 1 Godoy Cruz 0.
Sep 22: Argentinos 3 Union 3; Independiente 1 All Boys 1; San Lorenzo 1 Velez 2.
Sep 23: River Plate 0 Racing 1; San Martin 4 Quilmes 0; Colon 1 Newell's 2; Lanus 2 Boca 0.
Sep 24: Estudiantes 2 Arsenal 1.
Sep 28: Quilmes 1 Belgrano 1.
Sep 29: All Boys 2 Lanus 1; Racing 4 San Lorenzo 0; Godoy Cruz 1 Estudiantes 0; Rafaela 5 Argentinos 3.
Sep 30: Arsenal 0 River Plate 4; Tigre 0 Newell's 0; Velez 2 Colon 4; Union 1 Independiente 2; Boca 1 San Martin 1.
Oct 5: Argentinos 0 Tigre 0; Lanus 2 Union 0.
Oct 6: San Martin 2 All Boys 1; Colon 0 Racing 1; San Lorenzo 0 Arsenal 0; Estudiantes 2 Quilmes 1.
Oct 7: Belgrano 3 Boca 1; Independiente 2 Rafaela 0; Newell's 1 Velez 0; River Plate 5 Godoy Cruz 0.

ARGENTINA – 1ST TOURNAMENT

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newell's	10	6	4	0	11	4	22
Racing	10	6	2	2	15	5	20
Belgrano	10	5	4	1	13	7	19
Velez	10	5	2	3	14	9	17
Boca	10	5	2	3	14	14	17
Estudiantes	10	5	1	4	9	9	16
Godoy Cruz	10	5	1	4	9	12	16
River Plate	10	4	3	3	19	11	15
Colon	10	4	3	3	15	13	15
Lanus	10	4	2	4	10	6	14
Rafaela	10	3	4	3	13	12	13
Argentinos	10	3	4	3	13	17	13
Arsenal	10	3	3	4	7	14	12
Quilmes	10	2	5	3	10	12	11
San Martin	10	3	1	6	13	14	10
All Boys	10	2	4	4	13	15	10
Independiente	10	2	4	4	8	11	10
San Lorenzo	10	2	4	4	6	11	10
Tigre	10	0	6	4	9	16	6
Union	10	0	3	7	8	17	3

19-round tournament (19x1); no relegation after 1st tournament

BRAZIL

Sep 12: Figueirense 2 Cruzeiro 0; Portuguesa 0 Fluminense 2; Corinthians 1 Ponte Preta 1; Goianiense 1 Coritiba 2; Sport 1 Bahia 1; Mineiro 1 Sao Paulo 0; Santos 2 Flamengo 0; Vasco 3 Palmeiras 1.
Sep 13: Gremio 2 Nautico 0; Botafogo 1 Internacional 1.
Sep 15: Sao Paulo 3 Portuguesa 1; Fluminense 1 Goianiense 2.
Sep 16: Bahia 2 Figueirense 1; Nautico 1 Mineiro 0; Coritiba 1 Santos 2; Cruzeiro 1 Vasco 1; Palmeiras 0 Corinthians 2; Ponte Preta 0 Botafogo 0; Internacional 2 Sport 2; Flamengo 1 Gremio 1.
Sep 22: Fluminense 2 Nautico 1; Santos 1 Portuguesa 3; Figueirense 1 Palmeiras 3.
Sep 23: Botafogo 2 Corinthians 2; Sao Paulo 1 Cruzeiro 0; Ponte Preta 0 Vasco 0; Goianiense 1 Flamengo 2; Internacional 3 Bahia 1; Mineiro 0 Gremio 0; Sport 1 Coritiba 0.
Sep 26: Flamengo 2 Mineiro 1.
Sep 29: Vasco 3 Figueirense 1; Cruzeiro 0 Internacional 0; Portuguesa 1 Mineiro 1; Palmeiras 3 Ponte Preta 0; Nautico 2 Goianiense 0.
Sep 30: Flamengo 0 Fluminense 1; Corinthians 3 Sport 0; Coritiba 1 Sao Paulo 1; Bahia 2 Botafogo 0; Gremio 1 Santos 1.
Oct 4: Flamengo 0 Bahia 0; Portuguesa 5 Sport 1; Coritiba 1 Ponte Preta 0.
Oct 6: Sao Paulo 3 Palmeiras 0; Santos 1 Internacional 1; Nautico 2 Corinthians 1; Goianiense 0 Vasco 1; Fluminense 1 Botafogo 0; Gremio 2 Cruzeiro 1; Mineiro 6 Figueirense 0.

BRAZIL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fluminense	28	18	8	2	45	18	62
Mineiro	28	16	8	4	47	20	56
Gremio	28	16	5	7	40	23	53
Vasco	28	14	8	6	36	27	50
Sao Paulo	28	14	4	10	42	29	46
Internacional	28	10	12	6	34	24	42
Botafogo	28	11	7	10	41	36	40
Corinthians	28	10	9	9	34	28	39
Nautico	28	11	4	13	35	43	37
Cruzeiro	28	10	6	12	33	38	36
Portuguesa	28	9	9	10	34	32	36
Flamengo	28	9	8	11	28	37	35
Bahia	28	8	11	9	29	30	35
Santos	28	8	11	9	33	37	35
Ponte Preta	28	8	10	10	30	36	34
Coritiba	28	9	5	14	40	47	32
Sport	28	6	9	13	24	43	27
Palmeiras	28	7	5	16	28	39	26
Figueirense	28	5	7	16	30	54	22
Goianiense	28	4	8	16	27	49	20

38-round season (19x2); bottom 4 will be relegated

CONCACAF

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Group 1

Sep 19: Aguila (ESv) 0 Santos Laguna (Mex) 4.
Sep 25: Aguila 0 Toronto (Can) 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Santos	3	3	0	0	12	1	9
Toronto	3	2	0	1	9	4	6
Aguila	4	0	0	4	1	17	0

Group 2

Sep 18: Tauro (Pan) 0 Real Salt Lake (USA) 1.
Sep 25: Herediano (CR) 2 Tauro 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Herediano	3	3	0	0	4	1	9
Salt Lake	3	2	0	1	3	1	6
Tauro	4	0	0	4	1	6	0

Group 3

Sep 20: Houston Dynamo (USA) 4 FAS (ESv) 0.
Sep 27: FAS 2 Olimpia (Hnd) 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Houston	3	2	1	0	8	2	7
Olimpia	3	1	1	1	5	3	4
FAS	4	1	0	3	3	11	3

Group 4

Sep 19: Marathon (Hnd) 2 Seattle Sounders (USA) 3.
Sep 26: Marathon 2 Caledonia AIA (T&T) 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Seattle (Q)	3	3	0	0	9	4	9
Marathon	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Caledonia AIA	4	0	1	3	3	8	1

Group 5

Sep 19: Puerto Rico Islanders (PR) 0 Los Angeles Galaxy (USA) 0.
Sep 27: Puerto Rico Islanders 3 Isidro Metapan (ESv) 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Los Angeles (Q)	3	2	1	0	9	2	7
Puerto Rico Is	4	1	1	2	4	7	4
Isidro Metapan	3	1	0	2	5	9	3

Group 6

Sep 18: Real Esteli (Nic) 1 Tigres (Mex) 1.
Sep 26: Alajuelense (CR) 1 Real Esteli 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Alajuelense	3	2	1	0	4	2	7
Tigres	3	1	2	0	7	3	5
Real Esteli	4	0	1	3	1	7	1

Group 7

Sep 20: Municipal (Gtm) 2 Chorrillo (Pan) 1.
Sep 25: Monterrey (Mex) 3 Municipal 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Monterrey (Q)	3	3	0	0	9	0	9
Municipal	4	2	0	2	4	6	6
Chorrillo	3	0	0	3	2	9	0

Group 8

Sep 18: Xelaju (Gtm) 3 W Connection (T&T) 2.
Sep 26: W Connection 1 Guadalajara (Mex) 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Xelaju	3	2	1	0	6	4	7
Guadalajara	3	1	1	1	5	2	4
W Connection	4	0	2	2	5	10	2

Group winners qualify for quarter-finals

MEXICO

Apertura

Regular season

Sep 14: Pachuca 3 Morelia 2; Jaguares 2 Toluca 0; Leon 1 Guadalajara 2.
Sep 15: Tigres 2 Cruz Azul 0; Atlas 0 Queretaro 0; America 2 Santos 0.
Sep 16: Pumas 0 San Luis 1; Puebla 2 Monterrey 3; Atlante 1 Tijuana 2.
Sep 21: Puebla 1 Leon 1; Morelia 1 Tigres 1.
Sep 22: Cruz Azul 1 America 1; Santos 0 Jaguares 0; Monterrey 3 Queretaro 2; San Luis 1 Pachuca 0; Tijuana 1 Atlas 1.
Sep 23: Toluca 1 Atlante 0; Guadalajara 0 Pumas 0.
Sep 28: Jaguares 1 Cruz Azul 0; Leon 2 Monterrey 0.
Sep 29: America 1 Morelia 1; Queretaro 0 Tijuana 1; Pachuca 1 Guadalajara 0; Tigres 0 San Luis 0; Atlas 1 Toluca 3.
Sep 30: Pumas 2 Puebla 1; Atlante 1 Santos 3.
Oct 2: Guadalajara 2 Tigres 1; San Luis 1 America 2.
Oct 3: Puebla 2 Pachuca 0; Toluca 4 Queretaro 1; Cruz Azul 4 Atlante 0; Santos 2 Atlas 1; Leon 2 Pumas 1; Monterrey 1 Tijuana 1.
Oct 4: Morelia 1 Jaguares 1.
Oct 6: Queretaro 1 Santos 1; America 1 Guadalajara 3; Pachuca 1 Leon 1; Tigres 1 Puebla 2; Atlas 1 Cruz Azul 1.
Oct 7: Pumas 3 Monterrey 2; Jaguares 4 San Luis 0; Atlante 2 Morelia 2; Tijuana 1 Toluca 0.

MEXICO – APERTURA: REGULAR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tijuana	12	8	3	1	16	10	27
Toluca	12	8	2	2	20	11	26
Leon	12	6	3	3	21	11	21
Santos	12	5	4	3	15	14	19
America	12	4	6	2	19	13	18
Cruz Azul	12	4	6	2	12	8	18
Pumas	12	5	2	5	14	12	17
Monterrey	12	4	5	3	16	16	17
Morelia	12	3	7	2	18	14	16
Guadalajara	12	4	4	4	12	11	16
Jaguares	12	4	3	5	15	17	15
Tigres	12	3	5	4	16	14	14
Pachuca	12	3	5	4	9	13	14
Atlante	12	3	4	5	12	18	13
Puebla	12	3	3	6	13	19	12
Atlas	12	1	8	3	11	12	11
San Luis	12	2	3	7	9	18	9
Queretaro	12	0	3	9	7	24	3

17-round regular season (17x1); top 8 enter apertura championship play-offs; no relegation after apertura

UNITED STATES

Regular season

Sep 12: Toronto 1 Chicago 2.
Sep 14: Kansas City 1 Houston 1; Los Angeles 2 Colorado 0.
Sep 15: Toronto 1 Philadelphia 1; Portland 1 Seattle 1; New York 3 Columbus 1; DC United 2 New England 1; Dallas 1 Vancouver 0; Chicago 3 Montreal 1; Chivas 0 San Jose 2.
Sep 19: New York 0 Kansas City 2; Columbus 1 Chivas 0; San Jose 2 Portland 2.
Sep 20: Philadelphia 0 DC United 1.
Sep 22: Montreal 0 Kansas City 0; New England 1 New York 1; Salt Lake 2 Portland 1; Chicago 2 Columbus 1; Seattle 1 San Jose 2; Los Angeles 4 Toronto 2.
Sep 23: Philadelphia 3 Houston 1; DC United 1 Chivas 0; Vancouver 2 Colorado 2.
Sep 28: Kansas City 2 Chicago 0.
Sep 29: New York 4 Toronto 1; Columbus 3 Philadelphia 2; Houston 2 New England 0; Vancouver 0 Seattle 0; Portland 1 DC United 1; Chivas 0 Salt Lake 4; San Jose 3 Dallas 3.
Sep 30: Colorado 1 Los Angeles 1.
Oct 3: Chicago 1 Philadelphia 3; Vancouver 4 Chivas 0.
Oct 6: Toronto 0 DC United 1; New York 0 Chicago 2; Philadelphia 1 New England 0; Houston 1 Montreal 1; Colorado 1 San Jose 4; Los Angeles 1 Salt Lake 2.
Oct 7: Columbus 1 Kansas City 1; Chivas 1 Dallas 1; Seattle 3 Portland 0.

USA – REGULAR: EASTERN CONFERENCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kansas City (Q)	32	17	8	7	40	26	59
Chicago (Q)	32	17	5	10	45	39	56
DC United	32	16	6	10	49	40	54
New York	32	15	8	9	54	46	53
Houston	32	13	11	8	45	38	50
Columbus	32	14	7	11	40	40	49
Montreal	32	12	5	15	45	50	41
Philadelphia	31	10	6	15	35	37	36
New England	32	7	8	17	37	44	29
Toronto	32	5	7	20	35	60	22

34-round regular season (7x3 & 2x2 in own conference, 9x1 in western conference)

Semi-finalists...Al Ittihad's Diego Souza (right) and Mohammed Noor

SOUTH KOREA

Phoenix quit league

Sangju Sangmu Phoenix were relegated just before the K-League split into two groups of eight after the military side failed to meet the criteria required by the AFC to maintain their status as a professional club.

Following the decision, Phoenix withdrew from their remaining fixtures.

TAJIKISTAN

Second Tajik victory

Istiqlol won the AFC President's Cup on home soil, coming from behind to beat Markaz Shabab Al Am'ari of Palestine 2-1 in the Final. The club from the capital of Dushanbe become only the second Tajik club, after three-times winners Regar-Tadaz, to claim the title.

USA – REGULAR: WESTERN CONFERENCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
San Jose (Q)	32	19	7	6	69	40	64
Salt Lake (Q)	32	17	4	11	46	35	55
Seattle (Q)	31	14	10	7	48	31	52
Los Angeles (Q)	32	15	5	12	56	45	50
Vancouver	32	11	9	12	35	40	42
Dallas	32	9	11	12	39	42	38
Colorado	32	9	4	19	40	50	31
Portland	32	7	9	16	32	55	30
Chivas	32	7	8	17	22	54	29

34-round regular season (8x3 in own conference, 10x1 in eastern conference)

Top 5 in both conferences will enter championship play-offs; no relegation from this league

AFRICA

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Group A

Sep 14: ASO Chlef (Alg) 1 Esperance (Tun) 0.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP A[1] – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Esperance (Q)	4	3	0	1	6	3	9
S'shine (Nga) (Q)	4	2	0	2	4	4	6
ASO Chlef	4	1	0	3	4	7	3

[1]Etoile Sahel (Tun) were expelled from the tournament after their rioting fans forced the abandonment of their 4th group game, at home to Esperance; Etoile's results expunged

Group B

Sep 16: Al Ahly (Egy) 1 Zamalek (Egy) 1; Berekum Chelsea (Gha) 1 TP Mazembe (DRC) 0.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP B – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Al Ahly (Q)	6	3	2	1	9	6	11
TP Mazembe (Q)	6	3	1	2	9	6	10
Berekum C'sea	6	2	3	1	9	10	9
Zamalek	6	0	2	4	5	10	2

Top 2 in both groups qualified for semi-finals

Semi-finals

1st legs

Oct 6
Sunshine Stars 3 (Medrano 40, Olorundare pen 73, Osasco 83)
Al Ahly 3 (Gedo 18, 74, Hamdy 30)
HT: 1-2. **Ref:** Bennett (SAf)

Oct 7
TP Mazembe 0
Esperance 0
Ref: Doue (IvC)
Sent off: Sunzu (TP Mazembe) 90+2min

CONFEDERATION CUP

Group A

Sep 14: Al Hilal (Sud) 3 InterClube (Ang) 0.
Sep 16: Al Ahli Shendi (Sud) 0 Al Merreikh (Sud) 1.
Oct 5: Al Hilal 2 Al Ahli Shendi 0.
Oct 6: InterClube 0 Al Merreikh 0.

CONFEDERATION CUP – GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Al Hilal (Q)	5	3	2	0	9	3	11
Al Merreikh (Q)	5	3	2	0	5	1	11
Al Ahli Shendi	5	1	0	4	2	7	3
InterClube	5	0	2	3	1	6	2

Group B

Sep 15: Wydad Casablanca (Mor) 1 Djoliba (Mli) 2.
Sep 16: AC Leopard (Con) 1 Stade Malien (Mli) 0.
Oct 6: Wydad Casablanca 3 AC Leopard 1.
Oct 7: Djoliba 2 Stade Malien 1.

CONFEDERATION CUP – GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Djoliba (Q)	5	4	1	0	9	4	13
AC Leopard	5	1	3	1	5	6	6
Wydad	5	1	2	2	7	7	5
Stade Malien	5	0	2	3	3	7	2

Top 2 in both groups qualify for semi-finals

CAMEROON

CAMEROON – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Union (C)	26	17	4	5	38	17	55
Coton Sport	26	15	8	3	33	11	53
Panthere	26	13	6	7	28	16	45
Young Sport	26	10	10	6	23	26	40
Unisport	26	9	12	5	29	22	39
New Star	26	9	11	6	40	27	38
Sable	26	8	10	8	26	26	34
Canon	26	8	8	10	27	36	32
Renaissance	26	8	7	11	24	28	31
Les Astres	26	5	14	7	24	29	29
Njalla Quan	26	7	8	11	23	30	29
Aigle Royal (R)	26	5	11	10	23	30	26
Tiko Utd (R)	26	4	8	14	21	37	20
Scorpion (R)	26	3	5	18	15	39	14

TUNISIA

TUNISIA – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Esperance (C)	30	22	3	5	61	22	69
Bizertin	30	20	5	5	54	25	65
Sfaxien	30	15	11	4	47	26	56
Etoile Sahel	30	13	10	7	33	22	49
Marsa	30	12	11	7	39	28	47
Club Africain	30	10	12	8	36	30	42
Monastir	30	7	15	8	31	34	36
Olympique	30	9	9	12	31	35	36
Stade Tunisien	30	9	9	12	30	37	36
Gafsa	30	9	9	12	27	38	36
Ham-Sousse	30	8	11	11	29	37	35
Kairouan	30	8	9	13	29	38	33
Zarzis	30	7	10	13	36	52	31
Ham-Lif (R)	30	8	7	15	29	47	31
Gabes (R)	30	4	10	16	24	45	22
B-Khalled (R)	30	4	9	17	24	44	21

ASIA

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Quarter-finals

1st legs - Sep 19; 2nd legs - Oct 2/3
Adelaide United (Aus) v Bunyodkor (Uzb)
2-2, 2-3 (aet) (agg 4-5)
Al Ittihad (Sau) v Guangzhou Evergrande (Chn)
4-2, 1-2 (agg 5-4)
Sepahan (Irn) v Al Ahli (Sau) 0-0, 1-4 (agg 1-4)
Ulsan Hyundai (SKo) v Al Hilal (Sau) 1-0, 4-0 (agg 5-0)

AFC CUP

Quarter-finals

1st legs - Sep 18; 2nd legs - Sep 25/26
Arbil (Irq) v Kelantan (Mly) 5-1, 1-1 (agg 6-2)
Arema (Ins) v Al Ettifaq (Sau) 0-2, 0-2 (agg 0-4)
Chonburi (Tha) v Al Shorta (Syr)
1-2, 4-2 (aet) (agg 5-4)
Kuwait SC (Kuw) v Al Wehdat (Jor) 0-0, 3-0 (agg 3-0)

JAPAN

Sep 15: Omiya 1 Sagan 0; Sanfrecce 2 Vegalta 1; Gamba 1 Albirex 1; Shimizu 1 Tokyo 1; Kawasaki 2 Kashima 2; Kashiwa 3 Consadole 1; Yokohama 1 Urawa 2; Vissel 1 Jubilo 2; Cerezo 0 Nagoya 2.
Sep 22: Consadole 0 Omiya 5; Kashima 1 Yokohama 2; Vegalta 2 Vissel 1; Urawa 0 Gamba 5; Jubilo 0 Albirex 0; Cerezo 3 Shimizu 2; Tokyo 1 Kawasaki 2; Nagoya 1 Sanfrecce 2; Sagan 3 Kashiwa 1.
Sep 29: Shimizu 3 Vegalta 1; Sanfrecce 4 Sagan 1; Tokyo 2 Jubilo 1; Albirex 5 Nagoya 0; Vissel 2 Cerezo 3; Omiya 0 Yokohama 0; Gamba 2 Kashima 2; Kashiwa 1 Urawa 2; Kawasaki 1 Consadole 0.
Oct 6: Cerezo 3 Sagan 2; Yokohama 0 Sanfrecce 0; Kashima 5 Tokyo 1; Kashiwa 1 Kawasaki 0; Albirex 0 Vissel 0; Nagoya 0 Omiya 0; Jubilo 0 Shimizu 1; Vegalta 2 Gamba 1; Urawa 1 Consadole 2.

JAPAN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sanfrecce	28	16	6	6	53	28	54
Vegalta	28	14	9	5	49	29	51
Urawa	28	13	9	6	38	32	48
Shimizu	28	13	5	10	34	32	44
Jubilo	28	12	6	10	52	40	42
Kashiwa	28	12	6	10	49	42	42
Nagoya	28	12	6	10	38	41	42
Sagan	28	11	8	9	36	30	41
Yokohama	28	9	13	6	33	29	40
Tokyo	28	12	4	12	33	37	40
Kawasaki	28	11	6	11	37	39	39
Cerezo	28	11	5	12	41	42	38
Kashima	28	10	7	11	42	37	37
Vissel	28	10	4	14	35	42	34
Omiya	28	8	8	12	28	42	32
Albirex	28	7	9	12	22	29	30
Gamba	28	7	8	13	55	55	29
Consadole	28	4	1	23	22	71	13

34-round season (17x2); bottom 3 will be relegated

KEY TO TABLES
(C) = champions (Q) = qualified (R) = relegated

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

November 2, 3 or 4
CAF Champions League Final first leg
November 6 and 7
UEFA Champions League group games
November 8
Europa League group games
November 9 or 10
AFC Champions League Final
November 14
World Cup qualifiers and international friendlies
November 16, 17 or 18
CAF Champions League Final second leg; CAF Confederations Cup Final first leg
November 20 and 21
UEFA Champions League group games
November 22
Europa League group games
November 23, 24 or 25
CAF Confederations Cup Final second leg
November 24 to December 22
ASEAN Football Championship

November 2012 Vol 53 No 2

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PICTURES Pictures copyright: Press Association Images, Getty Images, Action Images and Reuters

Thanks this issue to Mike Hughes, Peter Neish, Dave Rallis

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Binders +44 (0) 20 3148 4816

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Periodicals paid at Rahway, NJ Postmaster: send address changes to *World Soccer*, c/o MAIL America, 365 Blair Road, Avenel NJ 07001, USA. USPS004075

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GERMANY BUNDESLIGA 2012-13

AUGSBURG

GOALKEEPERS	
30 Mohamed AMSIF (Mor)	07.02.89
37 Ioannis GELIOS	24.04.92
1 Simon JENTZSCH	04.05.76
DEFENDERS	
18 Jan-Ingwer CALLSEN-BRACKER	23.09.84
15 Sebastian LANGKAMP	15.01.88
19 Matthias OSTRZOLEK	05.06.90
20 Ronny PHILP	28.01.89
4 Dominik REINHARDT	19.12.84
3 Gibril SANKOH (SLe)	15.05.83
2 Paul VERHAEGH (Hol)	01.09.83
MIDFIELDERS	
25 Dawda BAH (Gam)	18.11.83
10 Daniel BAIER	16.05.84
5 Ragnar KLAVAN (Est)	30.10.85
7 KOO Ja-cheol (SKo)	27.02.89
14 Jan MORAVEK (CzR)	01.11.89
29 Moritz NEBEL	25.09.91
16 Andreas OTTL	01.03.85
11 Milan PETRZELA (CzR)	19.06.83
31 Marco THIEDE	20.05.92
6 Kevin VOGT	23.09.91
13 Tobias WERNER	19.07.85
FORWARDS	
23 Aristide BANCE (BuF)	19.09.84
17 Marcel DE JONG (Can)	15.10.86
36 Stephan HAIN	27.09.88
33 Sascha MOLDERS	20.03.85
8 Knowledge MUSONA (Zim)	21.06.90
9 Torsten OEHRL	07.01.86
22 Giovanni SIO (Fra)	31.03.89
COACH	
Markus WEINZIERL	28.12.74

BAYER LEVERKUSEN

GOALKEEPERS	
1 Bernd LENO	04.03.92
36 Niklas LOMB	28.07.93
33 Michael RENSING	14.05.84
22 David YELLDELL (USA)	01.10.81
DEFENDERS	
23 CARLINHOS (Bra)	22.06.94
20 Daniel CARVAJAL (Spa)	11.01.92
27 Gonzalo CASTRO	11.06.87
5 Manuel FRIEDRICH	13.09.79
13 Jens HEGELER	22.01.88
24 Michal KADLEC (CzR)	13.12.84
3 Stefan REINARTZ	01.01.89
2 Daniel SCHWAAB	23.08.88
21 Omer TOPRAK (Tur)	21.07.89
4 Philipp WOLLSCHEID	06.03.89
MIDFIELDERS	
10 Renato AUGUSTO (Bra)	08.02.88
8 Lars BENDER	27.04.89
14 Hajime HOSOGAI (Jap)	10.06.86
31 Dominik KOHR	31.01.94
30 Kolja PUSCH	12.02.93
6 Simon ROLFES	21.01.82
18 Sidney SAM	31.01.88
28 Erik ZENGA	18.01.93
FORWARDS	
38 Karim BELLARABI	08.04.90
7 Junior FERNANDES (Chl)	04.10.88
11 Stephan KIESSLING	25.01.84
9 Andre SCHURRLE	06.11.90
COACH	
Sami HYYPIA (Fin)	07.10.73

BAYERN MUNICH

GOALKEEPERS	
1 Manuel NEUER	27.03.86
32 Lukas RAEDER	30.12.93
24 Maximilian RIEDMULLER	04.01.88
22 Tom STARKE	18.03.81
DEFENDERS	
27 David ALABA (Aut)	24.06.92
28 Holger BADSTUBER	13.03.89
17 Jerome BOATENG	03.09.88
26 Diego CONTENTO (Ita)	01.05.90
4 DANTE (Bra)	18.10.83
21 Philipp LAHM	11.11.83
13 RAFINHA (Bra)	07.09.85
5 Daniel VAN BUYTEN (Blg)	07.02.78
23 Mitchell WEISER	21.04.94
MIDFIELDERS	
36 Emre CAN	12.01.94
30 Luiz GUSTAVO (Bra)	23.07.87
39 Toni KROOS	04.01.90
8 Javi MARTINEZ (Spa)	02.09.88
7 Franck RIBERY (Fra)	01.04.83
31 Bastian SCHWEINSTEIGER	01.08.84
11 Xherdan SHAQIRI (Swi)	10.10.91
44 Anatoliy TYMOSHCHUK (Ukr)	30.03.79
FORWARDS	
33 Mario GOMEZ	10.07.85
9 Mario MANDZUKIC (Cro)	21.05.86
25 Thomas MULLER	13.09.89
14 Claudio PIZARRO (Per)	03.10.78
10 Arjen ROBBEN (Hol)	23.01.84
20 Patrick WEIHRAUCH	03.03.94
COACH	
Jupp HEYNCKES	09.05.45

BOR DORTMUND

GOALKEEPERS	
33 Zlatan ALOMEROVIC	15.06.91
20 Mitchell LANGERAK (Aut)	22.08.88
1 Roman WEIDENFELLER	06.08.80
DEFENDERS	
30 Koray GUNTER	16.08.94
3 Marc HORNSCHUH	02.03.91
15 Mats HUMMELS	16.12.88
25 Thomas MEISSNER	26.03.91
22 Patrick OWOMOYELA	05.11.79
26 Lukasz PISZCZEK (Pol)	03.06.85
27 Felipe SANTANA (Bra)	17.03.86
29 Marcel SCHMELZER	22.01.88
4 Neven SUBOTIC (Ser)	10.12.88
MIDFIELDERS	
28 Mustafa AMINI (Aut)	20.04.93
31 Marvin BAKALORZ	13.09.89
6 Sven BENDER	27.04.89
16 Jakub BLASZCZYKOWSKI (Pol)	14.12.85
10 Mario GOTZE	03.06.92
19 Kevin GROSSKREUTZ	19.07.88
8 Ilkay GUNDOGAN	24.10.90
5 Sebastian KEHL	13.02.80
21 Oliver KIRCH	21.08.82
7 Moritz LEITNER	08.12.92
24 Chris LOWE	16.04.89
14 Ivan PERISIC (Cro)	02.02.89
FORWARDS	
32 Leonardo BITTENCOURT	19.12.93
34 Marvin DUCKSCH	07.03.94
9 Robert LEWANDOWSKI (Pol)	21.08.88
11 Marco REUS	31.05.89
23 Julian SCHIEBER	13.02.89
COACH	
Jurgen KLOPP	16.06.67

BOR M'GLADBACH

GOALKEEPERS	
21 Janis BLASWICH	02.05.91
33 Christofer HEIMEROTH	01.08.81
1 Marc-Andre TER STEGEN	30.04.92
DEFENDERS	
4 Roel BROUWERS (Hol)	28.11.81
3 Filip DAEMS (Blg)	31.10.78
37 Niklas DAMS	28.05.90
15 Alvaro DOMINGUEZ (Spa)	16.05.89
16 Havard NORDTVEIT (Nor)	21.06.90
39 Martin STRANZL (Aut)	16.06.80
17 Oscar WENDT (Swe)	24.10.85
2 Matthias ZIMMERMANN	16.06.92
MIDFIELDERS	
18 Juan ARANGO (Ven)	17.05.80
30 Alexander BIELER	05.09.92
6 Tolga CIGERCI	23.03.92
7 Patrick HERRMANN	12.02.91
24 Tony JANTSCHKE	07.04.90
27 Julian KORB	21.03.92
14 Thorben MARX	01.06.81
5 Alexander RING (Fin)	09.04.91
8 Lukas RUPP	08.01.91
34 Granit XHAKA (Swi)	27.09.92
25 Amin YOUNES	06.08.93
FORWARDS	
10 Igor DE CAMARGO (Bra)	12.05.83
9 Luuk DE JONG (Hol)	27.08.90
19 Mike HANKE	05.11.83
31 Branimir HRGOTA (Swe)	12.01.93
22 Peniel MLAPA	20.02.91
COACH	
Lucien FAVRE (Swi)	02.11.57

E FRANKFURT

GOALKEEPERS	
1 Oka NIKOLOV (Mac)	25.05.74
32 Aykut OZER (Tur)	01.01.93
31 Kevin TRAPP	08.07.90
DEFENDERS	
5 Martin AMEDICK	06.09.82
23 ANDERSON (Bra)	10.01.88
3 Heiko BUTSCHER	28.07.80
22 Stefano CELOZZI	02.11.88
4 Vladim DEMIDOV (Nor)	10.10.86
15 Constant DJAKPA (IvC)	17.10.86
39 Julian DUDDA	08.04.93
24 Sebastian JUNG	22.06.90
36 Marc-Oliver KEMPF	28.01.95
6 Bastian OCZIPKA	12.01.89
34 Erik WILLE	28.03.93
2 Carlos ZAMBRANO (Per)	10.07.89
MIDFIELDERS	
16 Stefan AIGNER	20.06.87
33 Alexander HIEN	03.04.93
8 Takashi INUI (Jap)	02.06.88
28 Sonny KITTEL	06.01.93
7 Benjamin KOHLER	04.08.80
13 Martin LANIG	11.07.84
21 Karim MATMOUR (Alg)	25.06.85
14 Alexander MEIER	17.01.83
20 Sebastian RODE	11.10.90
27 Pirmin SCHWEGLER (Swi)	09.03.87
37 Marc STENDERA	10.12.95
FORWARDS	
29 Rob FRIEND (Can)	23.01.81
10 Erwin HOFFER (Aut)	14.04.87
19 Dorge KOUEMAHA (Cam)	28.06.83
9 Olivier OCCEAN (Can)	23.10.81
COACH	
Armin VEH	01.02.61

FOR DUSSELDORF

GOALKEEPERS	
1 Robert ALMER (Aut)	20.03.84
33 Fabian GIEFER	17.05.90
DEFENDERS	
3 Leon BALOGUN	28.06.88
13 Adam BODZEK	07.09.85
22 CHA Du-ri (SKo)	25.07.80
24 Jeron HAZAIMEH	13.02.92
5 JUANAN (Spa)	27.04.87
6 Jens LANGENEKE	29.03.77
19 Tobias LEVELS	22.11.86
4 Stelios MALEZAS (Gre)	11.03.85
14 Bruno SOARES (Bra)	21.06.88
MIDFIELDERS	
12 Mazin ALHUTHAYFI (Sau)	30.06.86
29 Aliosman AYDIN	06.02.92
11 Axel BELLINGHAUSEN	17.05.83
7 Oliver FINK	06.06.82
8 Andre FOMITSCHOW	07.09.90
18 Ronny GARBUSCHEWSKI	23.02.86
17 Andreas LAMBERTZ	15.10.84
32 Bastian MULLER	31.07.91
15 Ivan PAUREVIC (Cro)	01.07.91
26 Jules SCHWADORF	19.10.92
21 Johannes VAN DEN BERGH	21.11.86
FORWARDS	
25 Tugrul ERAT (Tur)	17.12.92
28 Timo FURUHOLM (Fin)	11.10.87
10 Ken ILSO (Den)	02.12.86
23 Robbie KRUSE (Aus)	05.10.88
9 Nando RAFAEL (Ang)	10.01.84
27 Stefan REISINGER	14.09.81
20 Dani SCHAHIN	09.07.89
30 Andriy VORONIN (Ukr)	21.07.79
16 Gerrit WEGKAMP	13.04.93
COACH	
Norbert MEIER	20.09.58

FREIBURG

GOALKEEPERS	
19 Daniel BATZ	12.01.91
1 Oliver BAUMANN	02.06.90
36 Alexander SCHWOLOW	02.05.92
DEFENDERS	
3 Diagne FALLOU (Sen)	14.08.89
4 Beg FERATI (Swi)	10.11.86
30 Christian GUNTER	28.02.93
6 Vegar Eggen HEDENSTAD (Nor)	26.06.91
41 Immanuel HOHN	23.12.91
2 Pavel KRMAS (CzR)	03.03.80
24 Mensur MUJDZA (Cro)	28.03.84
25 Oliver SORG	29.05.90
MIDFIELDERS	
40 Daniel CALIGIURI	15.01.88
21 EZEQUIEL (Spa)	12.01.91
18 Johannes FLUM	25.02.88
28 Matthias GINTER	19.01.94
31 Karim GUEDE (Slk)	07.01.85
20 Max KRUSE	19.03.88
7 Cedric MAKIADI (DRC)	23.02.84
14 Anton PUTSILA (Bls)	23.06.87
8 Jan ROSENTHAL	07.04.86
17 Jonathan SCHMID (Fra)	26.06.90
23 Julian SCHUSTER	15.04.85
FORWARDS	
33 Mounir BOUZIANE (Alg)	05.02.91
11 Garra DEMBELE (Mli)	21.02.86
35 Sebastien FRIES	23.04.85
26 Erik JENDRISEK (Slk)	26.10.86
9 Ivan SANTINI (Cro)	21.05.89
22 Marco TERRAZZINO	15.04.91
COACH	
Christian STREICH	11.06.65

GREUTHER FURTH

GOALKEEPERS	
26 Max GRUN	05.04.87
1 Wolfgang HESL	13.01.86
29 Issa NDOYE (Sen)	12.12.85
DEFENDERS	
30 Johannes GEIS	07.08.93
15 Michael HEFELE	01.09.90
19 Thomas KLEINE	28.12.77
4 Kevin KRAUS	12.08.92
5 Mergim MAVRAJ	09.06.86
7 Bernd NEHRIG	28.09.86
18 Baba RAHMAN (Gha)	02.07.94
6 Heinrich SCHMIDTGAL (Kaz)	20.11.85
2 Lasse SOBIECH	18.01.91
MIDFIELDERS	
11 Gerald ASAMOAH	03.10.78
8 Stephan FURSTNER	11.09.87
36 Felix KLAUS	13.09.92
27 Tobias MIKKELSEN (Den)	18.09.86
13 Milorad PEKOVIC (Mne)	05.08.77
34 Tayfun PEKTURK (Tur)	13.05.88
22 Thanos PETSOS (Gre)	05.06.91
17 Thomas PLEDL	23.05.94
14 Edgar PRIB	15.12.89
23 Sercan SARARER (Tur)	27.11.89
16 Zoltan STIEBER (Hun)	16.10.88
10 Sebastian TYRALA (Pol)	22.02.88
21 Robert ZILLNER	04.08.85
FORWARDS	
33 Ilir AZEMI (Alb)	21.02.92
32 EDU (Bra)	30.11.81
24 Baye Djiby FALL (Sen)	20.04.85
9 Christopher NOTHE	03.01.88
COACH	
Michael BUSKENS	19.03.68

HAMBURG

GOALKEEPERS	
15 Rene ADLER	15.01.85
1 Jaroslav DROBNY (CzR)	09.10.79
12 Tom MICKEL	19.04.89
30 Sven NEUHAUS	04.04.78
DEFENDERS	
6 Dennis AOGO	14.01.87
5 Jeffrey BRUMA (Hol)	13.11.91
2 Dennis DIEKMEIER	20.10.89
17 LAM Zhi Gin	04.06.91
3 Michael MANCIENNE (Eng)	08.01.88
24 Slobodan RAJKOVIC (Ser)	03.02.89
20 Paul SCHARNER (Aut)	11.03.80
37 Janek STERNBERG	19.10.92
4 Heiko WESTERMANN	14.08.83
MIDFIELDERS	
18 Tolgay ARSLAN (Tur)	16.08.90
14 Milan BADELJ (Cro)	25.02.89
21 Maximilian BEISTER	06.09.90
11 Ivo ILICEVIC (Cro)	14.11.86
7 Marcell JANSEN	04.11.85
19 Petr JIRACEK (CzR)	02.03.86
44 Gojko KACAR (Ser)	26.01.87
33 Christian NORGAARD (Den)	10.03.94
8 Tomas RINCON (Ven)	13.01.88
22 Jacopo SALA (Ita)	05.12.91
25 Per Ciljan SKJELBREID (Nor)	16.06.87
13 Robert TESCHE	27.05.87
23 Rafael VAN DER VAART (Hol)	11.02.83
FORWARDS	
16 Marcus BERG (Swe)	17.08.86
10 Artjoms RUDNEVS (Lat)	13.01.88
40 SON Heung-min (SKo)	08.07.92
COACH	
Thorsten FINK	29.10.67

HANOVER

GOALKEEPERS	
14 Markus MILLER	08.04.82
21 Samuel RADLINGER (Aut)	07.11.92
1 Ron-Robert ZIELER	12.02.89
DEFENDERS	
23 Sofian CHAHED (Tun)	18.04.83
6 Steve CHERUNDOLO (USA)	19.02.79
5 Mario EGGIMANN (Swi)	24.01.81
20 FELIPE (Bra)	15.05.87
3 Karim HAGGUI (Tun)	20.01.84
24 Christian PANDER	28.08.83
4 Hiroki SAKAI (Jap)	12.04.90
19 Christian SCHULZ	01.04.83
33 Yannik SCHULZE	05.02.95
MIDFIELDERS	
2 Leon ANDREASEN (Den)	23.04.83
26 Deniz AYCICEK	05.06.90
38 Niko GIESSELMANN	26.09.91
10 Szabolcs HUSZTI (Hun)	18.04.83
22 Adrian NIKCI (Swi)	10.11.89
7 Sergio PINTO (Por)	16.10.80
34 Konstantin RAUSCH	15.03.90
8 Manuel SCHMIEDEBACH	05.12.88
37 Sascha SCHUNEMANN	20.02.92
28 Lars STINDL	26.08.88
FORWARDS	
25 Mohammed ABDELLAOUE (Nor)	23.10.85
39 Mame Biram DIOUF (Sen)	16.12.87
13 Jan SCHLAUDRAFF	18.07.83
9 Artur SOBIECH (Pol)	12.06.90
11 Didier YA KONAN (IvC)	25.02.84
COACH	
Mirko SLOMKA	12.09.67

HOFFENHEIM

GOALKEEPERS	
30 Koen CASTEELS (Blg)	25.06.92
19 Jens GRAHL	22.09.88
1 Tim WIESE	17.12.81
DEFENDERS	
2 Andreas BECK	13.03.87
14 CHRIS (Bra)	25.08.78
5 Marvin COMPPER	14.06.85
15 Mathieu DELPIERRE (Fra)	26.04.81
3 Matthias JAISSLE	05.04.88
16 Fabian JOHNSON (USA)	11.12.87
21 Patrick OCHS	14.05.84
40 Stephan SCHROCK (Phi)	21.08.86
4 Stefan THESKER	11.04.91
29 Jannik VESTERGAARD (Den)	03.08.92
13 Daniel WILLIAMS (USA)	08.03.89
MIDFIELDERS	
22 Roberto FIRMINO (Bra)	02.10.91
8 Filip MALBASIC (Ser)	18.11.92
6 Sebastian RUDY	28.02.90
23 Sejad SALIHOVIC (Bos)	08.10.84
20 Ahmed SASSI (Tun)	24.09.93
33 Takashi USAMI (Jap)	06.05.92
7 Boris VUKCEVIC	16.03.90
17 Tobias WEIS	30.07.85
27 Sandro WIESER (Lie)	03.02.93
FORWARDS	
11 Eren DERDIYOK (Swi)	12.06.88
24 Michael GREGORITSCH (Aut)	18.04.94
18 JOSELU (Spa)	27.03.90
9 Sven SCHIPPLOCK	08.11.88
31 Kevin VOLLAND	30.07.92
COACH	
Markus BABBEL	08.09.72

MAINZ

GOALKEEPERS	
21 Loris KARIUS	22.06.93
33 Heinz MULLER	30.05.78
29 Christian WETKLO	11.01.80
DEFENDERS	
16 Stefan BELL	24.08.91
26 Niko BUNGERT	24.10.86
20 Junior DIAZ (CR)	12.09.83
15 Jan KIRCHHOFF	01.10.90
4 Nikolce NOVESKI (Mac)	28.04.79
3 Zdenek POSPECH (CzR)	14.12.78
24 Tobias SCHILK	24.03.92
2 Bo SVENSSON (Den)	04.08.79
8 Radoslav ZABAVNIK (Slk)	16.09.80
MIDFIELDERS	
14 Julian BAUMGARTLINGER (Aut)	02.01.88
6 Marco CALIGIURI	14.04.84
17 Chinedu EDE	05.02.87
25 Andreas IVANSCHITZ (Aut)	15.10.83
11 Yunus MALLI	24.02.92
7 Eugen POLANSKI (Pol)	17.03.86
23 Marcel RISSE	17.12.89
19 Elkin SOTO (Col)	04.08.80
FORWARDS	
10 Maxim CHOUPO-MOTING (Cam)	23.03.89
39 Ivan KLASNIC (Cro)	29.01.80
27 Nicolai MULLER	25.09.87
31 Shawn PARKER	07.03.93
13 Nikita RUKAVYTSYA (Aus)	22.06.87
28 Adam SZALAI (Hun)	09.12.87
COACH	
Thomas TUCHEL	29.08.73

NUREMBURG

GOALKEEPERS	
22 Patrick RAKOVSKY	02.06.93
1 Raphael SCHAFER	30.01.79
30 Alexander STEPHAN	15.09.86
DEFENDERS	
4 Marcos ANTONIO (Bra)	25.05.83
26 Timothy CHANDLER (USA)	29.03.90
15 Timm KLOSE (Swi)	09.05.88
19 Noah KORCZOWSKI	08.01.94
3 Per NILSSON (Swi)	15.09.82
25 Javier PINOLA (Arg)	24.02.83
21 Marvin PLATTENHARDT	26.01.92
2 Timmy SIMONS (Blg)	11.12.76
MIDFIELDERS	
5 Hanno BALITSCH	02.01.81
18 Almog COHEN (Isr)	01.09.88
7 Markus FEULNER	12.02.82
10 Timo GEBHART	12.04.89
23 Adam HLOUSEK (CzR)	20.12.88
13 Hiroshi KIYOTAKE (Jap)	12.11.89
35 Philipp KLEMENT	09.09.92
14 Robert MAK (Slk)	08.03.91
27 Markus MENDLER	07.01.93
FORWARDS	
33 Alexander ESSWEIN	25.03.90
17 Mike FRANTZ	14.10.86
29 Roussel NGANKAM	15.09.93
9 Tomas PEKHART (CzR)	26.05.89
8 Sebastian POLTER	01.04.91
COACH	
Dieter HECKING	12.09.64

SCHALKE

GOALKEEPERS	
1 Ralf FAHRMANN	27.09.88
34 Timo HILDEBRAND	05.04.79
36 Lars UNNERSTALL	20.07.90
DEFENDERS	
3 Sergio ESCUDERO (Spa)	02.09.89
23 Christian FUCHS (Aut)	07.04.86
4 Benedikt HOWEDES	29.02.88
32 Joel MATIP (Cam)	08.08.91
21 Christoph METZELDER	05.11.80
14 Kyriakos PAPADOPOULOS (Gre)	23.02.92
22 Atsuto UCHIDA (Jap)	27.03.88
MIDFIELDERS	
11 Ibrahim AFELLAY (Hol)	02.04.86
27 Tranquillo BARNETTA (Swi)	22.05.85
31 Julian DRAXLER	20.09.93
12 Marco HOGER	16.09.89
10 Lewis HOLTBY	18.09.90
13 Jermaine JONES (USA)	03.11.81
35 Sead KOLASINAC	20.06.93
28 Christoph MORITZ	27.01.90
33 Roman NEUSTADTER	18.02.88
FORWARDS	
17 Jefferson FARFAN (Per)	28.10.84
25 Klaas-Jan HUNTELAAR (Hol)	12.08.83
8 Ciprian MARICA (Rom)	02.10.85
19 Chinedu OBASI (Nga)	01.06.86
20 Teemu PUKKI (Fin)	29.03.90
COACH	
Huub STEVENS (Hol)	29.11.53

STUTTGART

GOALKEEPERS	
1 Sven ULREICH	03.08.88
33 Andre WEIS	30.09.89
22 Marc ZIEGLER	13.05.76
DEFENDERS	
15 Arthur BOKA (IvC)	02.04.83
23 Tim HOOGLAND	11.06.85
21 Cristian MOLINARO (Ita)	30.07.83
6 Georg NIEDERMEIER	26.02.86
14 Francisco RODRIGUEZ (Mex)	20.10.81
24 Antonio RUDIGER	03.03.93
2 Gotoku SAKAI (Jap)	14.03.91
5 Serdar TASCI	24.04.87
MIDFIELDERS	
13 Mamadou BAH (Gui)	25.04.88
10 Daniel DIDAVI	21.02.90
20 Christian GENTNER	14.08.85
30 Tamas HAJNAL (Hun)	15.03.81
26 Raphael HOLZHAUSER (Aut)	16.02.93
8 Zdravko KUZMANOVIC (Ser)	22.09.87
4 William KVIST (Den)	24.02.85
19 Kevin STOGER (Aut)	27.08.93
16 Ibrahima TRAORE (Gui)	21.04.88
FORWARDS	
11 Johan AUDEL (Fra)	12.12.83
18 CACAU	27.03.81
7 Martin HARNIK (Aut)	10.06.87
9 Vedad IBISEVIC (Bos)	06.08.84
31 Shinji OKAZAKI (Jap)	16.04.86
17 Tunay TORUN (Tur)	21.04.90
COACH	
Bruno LABBADIA	08.02.66

WERDER BREMEN

GOALKEEPERS	
1 Sebastian MIELITZ	18.07.89
33 Christian VANDER	24.10.80
20 Raphael WOLF	06.06.88
DEFENDERS	
3 Francois AFFOLTER (Swi)	13.03.91
8 Clemens FRITZ	07.12.80
23 Theodor GEBRE SELASSIE (CzR)	24.12.86
26 Florian HARTHERZ	29.05.93
5 Assani LUKIMYA-MULONGOTI (DRC)	25.01.86
22 Sokratis PAPASTATHOPOULOS (Gre)	09.06.88
15 Sebastian PRODL (Aut)	21.06.87
29 Cimo ROCKER	21.01.94
MIDFIELDERS	
28 Levent AYCICEK	12.02.94
44 Philipp BARGFREDE	03.03.89
6 Kevin DE BRUYNE (Blg)	28.06.91
10 Mehmet EKICI	25.03.90
17 Aleksandar IGNJOVSKI (Ser)	27.01.91
16 Zlatko JUNUZOVIC (Aut)	26.09.87
13 Lukas SCHMITZ	13.10.88
31 Aleksandar STEVANOVIC (Ser)	16.02.92
34 Predrag STEVANOVIC (Ser)	09.03.91
35 Florian TRINKS	11.03.92
25 Tom TRYBULL	09.03.93
32 Ozkan YILDIRIM	10.04.93
FORWARDS	
19 Joseph AKPALA (Nga)	24.08.86
7 Marko ARNAUTOVIC (Aut)	19.04.89
11 Eljero ELIA (Hol)	13.02.87
41 Niclas FULLKRUG	09.02.93
14 Aaron HUNT	04.09.86
18 Felix KROOS	12.03.91
24 Nils PETERSEN	06.12.88
27 Johannes WURTZ	19.06.92
COACH	
Thomas SCHAAF	30.04.61

WOLFSBURG

GOALKEEPERS	
1 Diego BENAGLIO (Swi)	08.09.83
35 Marwin HITZ (Swi)	18.09.87
DEFENDERS	
26 Hrvoje CALE (Cro)	04.03.85
32 FAGNER (Bra)	11.06.89
40 Simon KJAER (Den)	26.03.89
16 Sotirios KYRGIAKOS (Gre)	23.07.79
3 Felipe LOPES (Bra)	07.08.87
17 Alexander MADLUNG	11.07.82
25 NALDO (Bra)	10.09.82
5 Emanuel POGATETZ (Aut)	16.01.83
23 Marco RUSS	04.08.85
4 Marcel SCHAFER	07.06.84
15 Christian TRASCH	01.09.87
34 Ricardo RODRIGUEZ (Swi)	25.08.92
39 Michael SCHULZE	13.01.89
MIDFIELDERS	
10 DIEGO (Bra)	28.02.85
37 Ferhan HASANI (Mac)	18.06.90
13 Makoto HASEBE (Jap)	18.01.84
7 JOSUE (Bra)	19.07.79
38 Thomas KAHLENBERG (Den)	20.03.83
6 Slobodan MEDOJEVIC (Ser)	20.10.90
30 Yohandry OROZCO (Ven)	19.03.91
18 Kevin PANNEWITZ	16.10.91
14 Vaclav PILAR (CzR)	13.10.88
29 Jan POLAK (CzR)	14.03.81
8 VIERINHA (Por)	24.01.86
FORWARDS	
12 Bas DOST (Hol)	31.05.89
33 Patrick HELMES	01.03.84
19 Rasmus JONSSON (Swe)	27.01.90
36 Srdjan LAKIC (Cro)	02.10.83
11 Ivica OLIC (Cro)	14.09.79
COACH	
Felix MAGATH	26.07.53

SPAIN LA LIGA 2012-13

ATHLETIC BILBAO

GOALKEEPERS		
30	Kepa ARRIZABALAGA	03.10.94
1	Gorka IRAIZOZ	06.03.81
13	RAUL	13.03.88
DEFENDERS		
5	Fernando AMOREBIETA (Ven)	21.03.85
3	Jon AURTENETXE	03.01.92
22	Xabier CASTILLO	29.03.86
23	Borja EKIZA	06.03.88
29	Markel ETXEBERRIA	15.02.95
15	Andoni IRAOLA	22.06.82
28	Jonas RAMALHO	10.06.93
6	Mikel SAN JOSE	30.05.89
MIDFIELDERS		
27	Inigo Ruiz DE GALARRETA	06.08.93
10	Oscar DE MARCOS	14.04.89
18	Carlos GURPEGI	19.08.80
21	Ander HERRERA	14.08.89
8	Ander ITURRASPE	08.03.89
26	Igor MARTINEZ	19.07.89
17	Inigo PEREZ	18.01.88
32	Enric SABORIT	27.04.92
34	Aitor SEGUIN	27.04.95
14	Markel SUSAETA	14.12.87
2	Gaizka TOQUERO	09.08.84
33	Iker UNDABARRENA	18.05.95
FORWARDS		
20	Aritz ADURIZ	11.02.81
11	Ibai GOMEZ	11.11.89
31	GUILLERMO Fernandez	23.05.93
9	Fernando LLORENTE	26.02.85
16	Isma LOPEZ	29.01.90
19	Iker MUNIAIN	19.12.92
COACH		
	Marcelo BIELSA (Arg)	21.07.55

ATLETICO MADRID

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Sergio ASENJO	28.06.89
13	Thibaut COURTOIS (Blg)	11.05.92
DEFENDERS		
15	Domingo CISMA	09.02.82
18	Cata DIAZ (Arg)	13.03.79
3	FILIPE LUIS (Bra)	09.08.85
2	Diego GODIN (Uru)	16.02.86
23	MIRANDA (Bra)	07.09.84
12	Jorge PULIDO	08.04.91
17	SILVIO (Por)	28.09.87
MIDFIELDERS		
10	ARDA Turan (Tur)	30.01.87
21	EMRE Belozoglu (Tur)	07.09.80
14	GABI	10.07.83
8	Raul GARCIA	11.07.86
20	JUANFRAN	09.01.85
6	KOKE	08.01.92
11	Cristian RODRIGUEZ (Uru)	30.09.85
4	Mario SUAREZ	24.02.87
5	TIAGO (Por)	02.05.81
30	Oliver TORRES	10.11.94
FORWARDS		
7	ADRIAN Lopez	08.01.88
19	Diego COSTA (Bra)	07.10.88
9	Radamel FALCAO (Col)	10.02.86
42	Kader OUESLATI (Fra)	07.10.91
COACH		
	Diego SIMEONE (Arg)	28.04.70

BARCELONA

GOALKEEPERS		
13	Jose Manuel PINTO	15.11.75
1	Victor VALDES	14.01.82
DEFENDERS		
22	Eric ABIDAL (Fra)	11.07.79
18	Jordi ALBA	21.03.89
2	Daniel ALVES (Bra)	06.05.83
15	Marc BARTRA	15.01.91
19	Martin MONTOYA	14.04.91
3	Gerard PIQUE	02.02.87
5	Carles PUYOL	13.04.78
MIDFIELDERS		
21	ADRIANO (Bra)	26.10.84
11	Thiago ALCANTARA	11.04.91
16	Sergio BUSQUETS	16.07.88
12	Jonathan DOS SANTOS (Mex)	26.04.90
4	Cesc FABREGAS	04.05.87
24	Andreu FONTAS	14.11.89
8	Andres INIESTA	11.05.84
14	Javier MASCHERANO (Arg)	08.06.84
28	Sergi ROBERTO	07.02.92
25	Alex SONG (Cam)	09.09.87
6	XAVI	25.01.80
FORWARDS		
23	Isaac CUENCA	27.04.91
10	Lionel MESSI (Arg)	24.06.87
17	PEDRO	28.07.87
9	Alexis SANCHEZ (Chl)	19.12.88
37	Cristian TELLO	19.08.91
7	David VILLA	03.12.81
COACH		
	Tito VILANOVA	17.09.68

CELTA VIGO

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Sergio ALVAREZ	03.08.86
13	Javi VARAS	10.09.82
DEFENDERS		
12	Gustavo CABRAL (Arg)	14.10.85
2	Hugo MALLO	22.06.91
21	SAMUEL	26.04.85
5	Andres TUNEZ (Ven)	15.03.87
MIDFIELDERS		
7	Dani ABALO	29.09.87
16	Carlos BELLVIS	24.04.85
14	Cristian BUSTOS	29.05.83
22	Enrique DE LUCAS	17.08.78
24	Augusto FERNANDEZ (Arg)	10.04.86
25	Nacho INSA	09.06.86
23	Michael KROHN-DEHLI (Den)	06.06.83
3	Roberto LAGO	30.08.85
8	Alex LOPEZ	11.01.88
4	Borja OUBINA	17.05.82
6	Jonathan VILA	06.03.86
FORWARDS		
10	Iago ASPAS	11.08.87
9	Mario BERMEJO	07.10.78
18	PARK Chu-young (SKo)	10.07.85
17	Joan TOMAS	17.05.85
20	TONI	04.04.90
COACH		
	Paco HERRERA	02.12.53

DEP LA CORUNA

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Daniel ARANZUBIA	18.09.79
13	German LUX (Arg)	06.07.82
DEFENDERS		
17	AYOZE	25.05.82
6	AYTHAMI	02.04.86
3	EVALDO (Bra)	18.03.82
15	LAURE	22.03.85
24	Carlos MARCHENA	31.07.79
19	Roderick MIRANDA (Por)	30.03.91
2	Manuel PABLO	25.01.76
26	Tiago PINTO (Por)	01.02.88
5	ZE CASTRO (Por)	13.01.83
MIDFIELDERS		
14	Abel AGUILAR (Col)	06.01.85
4	Alex BERGANTINOS	07.06.85
18	Javier CAMUNAS	17.07.80
10	Juan DOMINGUEZ	08.01.90
16	Bruno GAMA (Por)	15.11.87
8	Andre SANTOS (Por)	02.03.89
22	Diogo SALOMAO (Por)	14.09.88
7	SAUL	09.04.85
21	Juan Carlos VALERON	17.06.75
20	Jesus VAZQUEZ	18.10.80
FORWARDS		
23	Rodolfo BODIPO (EqG)	25.10.77
25	Nelson OLIVEIRA (Por)	08.08.91
9	PIZZI (Por)	06.10.89
11	RIKI	11.08.80
COACH		
	Jose Luis OLTRA	24.03.69

ESPANYOL

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Cristian ALVAREZ (Arg)	13.11.85
13	Kiko CASILLA	02.10.86
DEFENDERS		
18	Joan CAPDEVILA	03.02.78
19	Diego COLOTTO (Arg)	03.10.81
6	Juan FORLIN (Arg)	10.01.88
2	Felipe MATTIONI (Bra)	15.10.88
15	Hector MORENO (Mex)	17.01.88
3	Raul RODRIGUEZ	22.09.87
4	Victor SANCHEZ	08.09.87
MIDFIELDERS		
17	Juan ALBIN (Uru)	17.07.86
24	Christian ALFONSO	02.05.89
7	Raul BAENA	02.03.89
14	Ernesto GALAN	17.06.86
23	Cristian GOMEZ	27.07.89
16	Javi LOPEZ	21.01.86
29	Fran MIRANDA	27.03.88
22	Wakaso MUBARAK (Gha)	25.07.90
5	Sergio TEJERA	28.05.90
10	Joan VERDU	05.05.83
FORWARDS		
11	Rui FONTE (Por)	23.03.90
9	Sergio GARCIA	09.06.83
12	Samuele LONGO (Ita)	12.01.92
20	SIMAO (Por)	31.10.79
8	Christian STUANI (Uru)	12.10.86
COACH		
	Mauricio POCHETTINO (Arg)	02.03.72

GETAFE

GOALKEEPERS		
13	Jordi CODINA	27.04.82
1	Miguel Angel MOYA	02.04.84
DEFENDERS		
16	David ABRAHAM (Arg)	16.07.86
2	ALEXIS	04.08.85
6	Alberto LOPO	05.05.80
3	MANE	22.12.81
15	RAFA	09.04.85
4	Miguel TORRES	28.01.86
20	Juan VALERA	21.12.84
MIDFIELDERS		
19	Abdelaziz BARRADA (Mor)	19.06.89
23	Borja FERNANDEZ	14.01.81
10	Jaime GAVILAN	12.05.85
5	Mehdi LACEN (Alg)	15.03.84
18	Angel LAFITA	07.08.84
14	Pedro LEON	24.11.86
21	MICHEL	09.11.85
22	Juan RODRIGUEZ	01.04.82
8	Pablo SARABIA	11.05.92
25	Xavi TORRES	21.11.86
FORWARDS		
26	Paco ALCACER	30.08.93
17	Diego CASTRO	02.07.82
11	Adrian COLUNGA	17.11.84
24	Hugo FRAILE	16.03.87
9	Dani GUIZA	17.08.80
12	Alvaro VAZQUEZ	27.04.91
COACH		
	Luis GARCIA	01.12.72

GRANADA

GOALKEEPERS		
13	ROBERTO	25.01.79
1	TONO	17.12.79
DEFENDERS		
16	Brayan ANGULO (Col)	02.11.89
15	Pape DIAKHATE (Sen)	21.06.84
20	Borja GOMEZ	14.05.88
8	Inigo LOPEZ	23.07.82
18	Manuel LUCENA	18.11.82
5	Diego MAINZ	29.12.82
2	Allan-Romeo NYOM (Cam)	10.05.88
MIDFIELDERS		
11	Dani BENITEZ	07.04.87
26	Alex CRUZ	17.06.90
23	Moises HURTADO	20.02.81
24	IRINEY (Bra)	23.04.81
10	JAIME	31.07.90
21	Juanma ORTIZ	01.03.82
4	Fran RICO	03.08.87
14	Mikel RICO	01.11.84
6	Guilherme SIQUEIRA (Bra)	28.04.86
22	Gabriel TORJE (Rom)	22.11.89
17	Hassan YEBDA (Alg)	14.05.84
FORWARDS		
3	Yacine BRAHIMI (Fra)	08.02.90
9	Youssef EL ARABI (Mor)	03.02.87
7	Antonio FLORO FLORES (Ita)	18.06.83
25	Odion IGHALO (Nga)	16.06.89
12	Darwin MACHIS (Ven)	07.02.93
19	Fabian ORELLANA (Chl)	27.01.86
COACH		
	Juan Antonio ANQUELA	11.09.57

LEVANTE

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Gustavo MUNUA (Uru)	27.01.78
13	Keylor NAVAS (CR)	15.12.86
DEFENDERS		
18	Sergio BALLESTEROS	04.09.75
14	Dariusz DUDKA (Pol)	09.12.83
12	JUANFRAN	15.07.76
15	Nikos KARABELAS (Gre)	20.12.84
22	Christian LELL (Ger)	29.08.84
19	Pedro LOPEZ	01.01.83
4	David NAVARRO	25.05.80
5	Hector RODAS	07.03.88
2	Massimo VOLTA (Ita)	14.05.87
MIDFIELDERS		
7	Jose Javier BARKERO	27.04.79
23	Papakouli DIOP (Sen)	19.03.86
8	Nabil EL ZHAR (Mor)	27.08.86
29	Ruben GARCIA	14.07.93
6	Miguel PALLARDO	05.06.86
16	Pedro RIOS	12.12.81
11	Oscar SERRANO	30.09.81
FORWARDS		
9	ANGEL	26.04.87
17	Theofanis GEKAS (Gre)	23.05.80
10	Vicente IBORRA	16.01.88
20	JUANLU	08.05.80
21	MICHEL	29.07.88
COACH		
	Juan Ignacio MARTINEZ	23.06.64

MALAGA

GOALKEEPERS		
13	Willy CABALLERO (Arg)	28.09.81
1	Carlos KAMENI (Cam)	18.02.84
32	POL	22.08.91
DEFENDERS		
5	Martin DEMICHELIS (Arg)	20.12.80
2	Jesus GAMEZ	10.04.85
15	Nacho MONREAL	26.02.86
23	Oguchi ONYEWU (USA)	13.05.82
21	Sergio SANCHEZ	03.04.86
3	WELIGTON (Bra)	26.08.79
MIDFIELDERS		
10	Julio BAPTISTA (Bra)	01.10.81
20	Diego BUONANOTTE (Arg)	19.04.88
6	Ignacio CAMACHO	04.05.90
17	DUDA (Por)	27.06.80
18	ELISEU (Por)	01.10.83
22	ISCO	21.04.92
16	Manuel ITURRA (Chl)	23.06.84
7	JOAQUIN	21.07.81
19	Francisco PORTILLO	13.06.90
28	RECIO	11.01.91
8	Jeremy TOULALAN (Fra)	10.09.83
FORWARDS		
11	Sebastian FERNANDEZ (Uru)	23.05.85
26	JUANMI	20.05.93
45	Fabrice OLINGA (Cam)	12.05.96
24	Roque SANTA CRUZ (Par)	16.08.81
9	Javier SAVIOLA (Arg)	11.12.81
COACH		
	Manuel PELLEGRINI (Chl)	16.09.53

MALLORCA

GOALKEEPERS		
13	Dudu AOUATE (Isr)	17.10.77
1	Juan CATALAYUD	21.12.79
25	Ruben MINO	18.01.89
26	YERAY	10.06.92
DEFENDERS		
4	Anderson CONCEICAO (Bra)	24.10.89
14	Pedro GEROMEL (Bra)	21.09.85
23	KEVIN	08.09.89
6	Antonio LOPEZ	13.09.81
16	Jose NUNES (Por)	07.03.77
27	XIMO	23.01.90
MIDFIELDERS		
21	Alejandro ALFARO	23.11.86
17	Pedro BIGAS	15.05.90
9	Giovani DOS SANTOS (Mex)	11.05.89
11	Javi MARQUEZ	11.05.86
19	Jose Luis MARTI	28.04.75
7	Michael PEREIRA (Fra)	08.12.87
5	Tomas PINA	14.10.87
3	Joao VICTOR (Bra)	07.11.88
FORWARDS		
30	ALVARO	19.05.91
22	Javier ARIZMENDI	03.03.84
10	Tomer HEMED (Isr)	02.05.87
8	Emilio NSUE	30.09.89
18	VICTOR	28.02.85
COACH		
	Joaquin CAPARROS	13.10.55

OSASUNA

GOALKEEPERS		
26	Imanol ELIAS	17.08.90
13	Andres FERNANDEZ	17.12.86
1	Asier RIESGO	06.10.83
DEFENDERS		
14	Alejandro ARRIBAS	01.05.89
2	Marc BERTRAN	22.05.82
24	DAMIA	15.04.82
6	Ion ECHAIDE	05.01.88
4	Miguel FLANO	19.08.84
3	Ruben GONZALEZ	29.01.82
5	LOLO	22.08.84
MIDFIELDERS		
25	Anthony ANNAN (Gha)	21.07.86
9	Emiliano ARMENTEROS (Arg)	18.01.86
16	Alvaro CEJUDO	29.01.84
23	Raoul LOE (Fra)	31.01.89
19	NANO	20.04.82
10	Patxi PUNAL	06.09.75
15	Oier SANJURJO	25.05.86
8	Masoud SHOJAEI (Irn)	09.06.84
11	SISI	22.04.86
22	David TIMOR	17.10.89
21	Roberto TORRES	07.03.89
FORWARDS		
20	Roland LAMAH (Blg)	31.12.87
12	Joseba LLORENTE	24.11.79
17	NINO	10.06.80
18	Manuel ONWU	11.01.88
7	Kike SOLA	25.02.86
COACH		
	Jose Luis MENDILIBAR	14.03.61

RAYO VALLECANO

GOALKEEPERS		
25	David COBENO	06.04.82
13	Dani GIMENEZ	30.07.83
1	RUBEN	22.06.84
DEFENDERS		
16	Jordi AMAT	21.03.92
3	Jose Manuel CASADO	09.08.86
5	Alejandro GALVEZ	06.06.89
4	Mikel LABAKA	10.08.80
6	RODRI	17.08.84
22	SUELITON (Bra)	19.08.86
2	TITO	11.07.85
MIDFIELDERS		
21	Mohammed ABU (Gha)	14.11.91
7	Manuel ARANA	03.12.84
18	Javi FUEGO	04.01.84
8	Adrian GONZALEZ	25.05.88
17	Roberto TRASHORRAS	28.02.81
20	Franco VAZQUEZ (Arg)	22.02.89
FORWARDS		
19	Lass BANGOURA (Gui)	30.03.92
14	Nicki BILLE (Den)	07.02.88
9	Jose CARLOS	17.07.87
23	Andrija DELIBASIC (Mne)	24.04.81
11	Alejandro DOMINGUEZ (Arg)	10.06.81
29	LEO (Bra)	26.08.92
33	Alberto PEREA	16.05.90
10	PITI	26.05.81
COACH		
	Paco JEMEZ	18.04.70

REAL BETIS

GOALKEEPERS		
13	ADRIAN	03.01.87
1	CASTO	18.06.82
25	FABRICIO	31.12.87
DEFENDERS		
4	Antonio AMAYA	31.05.83
7	ANGEL	10.03.81
2	Javi CHICA	17.05.85
5	Jose DORADO	10.07.82
3	Pedro MARIO	02.02.82
22	NELSON (Por)	10.06.83
12	PAULAO (Bra)	06.05.82
16	Damien PERQUIS (Pol)	10.04.84
MIDFIELDERS		
10	BENAT	19.02.87
21	Jose CANAS	27.05.87
17	Juan CARLOS	30.03.90
20	Nosa IGIEBOR (Nga)	09.11.90
6	Alex MARTINEZ	12.08.90
23	NACHO	24.06.80
8	Ruben PEREZ	26.04.89
14	Salva SEVILLA	18.03.84
FORWARDS		
18	Salvador AGRA (Por)	11.11.91
15	Joel CAMPBELL (CR)	26.06.92
24	Ruben CASTRO	27.06.81
19	Jorge MOLINA	22.04.82
9	Jonathan PEREIRA	12.05.87
11	Alejandro POZUELO	20.09.91
COACH		
	Pepe MEL	28.02.63

REAL MADRID

GOALKEEPERS		
13	Antonio ADAN	13.05.87
1	Iker CASILLAS	20.05.81
35	Jesus FERNANDEZ	11.06.88
DEFENDERS		
18	Raul ALBIOL	04.09.85
17	Alvaro ARBELOA	17.01.83
11	Ricardo CARVALHO (Por)	18.05.78
5	Fabio COENTRAO (Por)	11.03.88
27	Nacho FERNANDEZ	18.01.90
12	MARCELO (Bra)	12.05.88
3	PEPE (Por)	26.02.83
4	Sergio RAMOS	30.03.86
2	Raphael VARANE (Fra)	25.04.93
MIDFIELDERS		
14	Xabi ALONSO	25.11.81
22	Angel DI MARIA (Arg)	14.02.88
15	Michael ESSIEN (Gha)	03.12.82
8	KAKA (Bra)	22.04.82
6	Sami KHEDIRA (Ger)	04.04.87
19	Luka MODRIC (Cro)	09.09.85
10	Mesut OZIL (Ger)	15.10.88
FORWARDS		
9	Karim BENZEMA (Fra)	19.12.87
21	Jose CALLEJON	11.02.87
20	Gonzalo HIGUAIN (Arg)	10.12.87
29	Alvaro MORATA	23.10.92
7	Cristiano RONALDO (Por)	05.02.85
COACH		
	Jose MOURINHO (Por)	26.01.63

REAL SOCIEDAD

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Claudio BRAVO (Chl)	13.04.83
26	Enrique ROYO	14.06.91
13	Enaut ZUBIKARAI	26.02.84
DEFENDERS		
20	Jose ANGEL	05.09.89
15	Ion ANSOTEGI	13.07.82
19	Liassine CADAMURO (Alg)	05.03.88
3	Mikel GONZALEZ	24.09.85
2	Carlos MARTINEZ	09.04.86
6	Inigo MARTINEZ	17.05.91
MIDFIELDERS		
5	Markel BERGARA	05.05.86
18	Gonzalo CASTRO (Uru)	14.09.84
24	Alberto DE LA BELLA	02.12.85
4	Gorka ELUSTONDO	18.03.87
22	Dani ESTRADA	03.01.87
8	Asier ILLARRAMENDI	08.03.90
14	Ruben PARDO	22.10.92
10	Xabi PRIETO	29.08.83
23	Javi ROS	16.02.90
17	David ZURUTUZA	19.07.86
FORWARDS		
9	Imanol AGIRRETXE	24.02.87
7	Antoine GRIEZMANN (Fra)	21.03.91
21	Diego IFRAN (Uru)	08.06.87
11	Carlos VELA (Mex)	01.03.89
COACH		
	Philippe MONTANIER (Fra)	15.11.64

REAL VALLADOLID

GOALKEEPERS		
13	Dani HERNANDEZ (Ven)	21.10.85
1	JAIME	10.12.80
DEFENDERS		
24	Mikel BALENZIAGA	29.02.88
8	Javier BARAJA	24.08.80
17	Carlos PENA	28.07.83
2	Antonio RUKAVINA (Ser)	26.01.84
5	Henrique SERENO (Por)	18.05.85
3	Marc VALIENTE	29.03.87
MIDFIELDERS		
20	Patrick EBERT (Ger)	17.03.87
27	LOL	07.04.93
14	Julian OMAR	26.01.88
10	OSCAR	12.11.82
22	Victor PEREZ	12.01.88
18	Alvaro RUBIO	18.04.79
6	Jesus RUEDA	19.02.87
16	Lluis SASTRE	26.03.86
FORWARDS		
15	Alberto BUENO	20.03.88
9	Javi GUERRA	15.03.83
25	MANUCHO (Ang)	07.03.83
7	Juan NEIRA (Arg)	21.02.89
COACH		
	Miroslav DJUKIC (Ser)	19.02.66

REAL ZARAGOZA

GOALKEEPERS		
13	Toni DOBLAS	05.08.80
25	Leo FRANCO (Arg)	20.05.77
1	ROBERTO	10.02.86
DEFENDERS		
21	ABRAHAM	22.02.86
6	Raul GONI	12.10.88
4	Alvaro GONZALEZ	08.01.90
5	Maurizio LANZARO (Ita)	14.03.82
16	Glenn LOOVENS (Hol)	22.09.83
24	Ivan OBRADOVIC (Ser)	25.07.88
3	Javier PAREDES	05.07.82
22	Adam PINTER (Hun)	12.06.88
19	Cristian SAPUNARU (Rom)	05.04.84
MIDFIELDERS		
10	APONO	13.02.84
17	Stefan BABOVIC (Ser)	07.01.87
15	Jose MARI	06.12.87
12	ROMARIC (IvC)	04.06.83
18	Lucas WILCHEZ (Arg)	31.08.83
20	Franco ZUCULINI (Arg)	05.09.90
FORWARDS		
23	Javi ALAMO	18.08.88
7	Carlos ARANDA	27.07.80
11	Paco MONTANES	08.10.86
8	Edu ORIOL	05.11.86
9	Helder POSTIGA (Por)	02.08.82
COACH		
	Manolo JIMENEZ	21.01.64

SEVILLA

GOALKEEPERS		
13	Diego LOPEZ	03.11.81
1	Andres PALOP	22.10.73
DEFENDERS		
24	Alberto BOTIA	27.01.89
5	CALA	26.11.89
21	CICINHO (Bra)	04.08.86
23	COKE	26.04.87
18	Bernardo ESPINOSA (Col)	11.07.89
2	Federico FAZIO (Arg)	17.03.87
22	Geoffrey KONDOGBIA (Fra)	25.04.93
16	Antonio LUNA	17.03.91
3	Fernando NAVARRO	25.06.82
4	Emir SPAHIC (Cro)	18.08.80
MIDFIELDERS		
6	Jose CAMPANA	30.05.93
17	Javi HERVAS	09.06.89
12	Hedwiges MADURO (Hol)	13.02.85
8	Gary MEDEL (Chl)	03.08.87
7	Jesus NAVAS	21.11.85
30	Bryan RABELLO (Chl)	16.05.94
11	Ivan RAKITIC (Cro)	10.03.88
19	Jose Antonio REYES	01.09.83
15	Piotr TROCHOWSKI (Ger)	22.03.84
FORWARDS		
14	Manu DEL MORAL	25.02.84
20	Baba DIAWARA (Sen)	05.01.88
9	Alvaro NEGREDO	20.08.85
10	Diego PEROTTI (Arg)	26.07.88
COACH		
	MICHEL	23.03.63

VALENCIA

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Diego ALVES (Bra)	24.06.85
13	Vicente GUAITA	18.02.87
DEFENDERS		
14	Antonio BARRAGAN	12.06.87
3	Aly CISSOKHO (Fra)	15.09.87
20	Ricardo COSTA (Por)	16.05.81
22	Jeremy MATHIEU (Fra)	29.10.83
12	Joao PEREIRA (Por)	25.02.84
4	Adil RAMI (Fra)	27.12.85
18	Victor RUIZ	25.01.89
MIDFIELDERS		
6	David ALBELDA	01.09.77
10	Ever BANEGA (Arg)	29.06.88
28	Juan BERNAT	01.03.93
23	Sergio CANALES	16.02.91
24	Tino COSTA (Arg)	09.01.85
8	Sofiane FEGHOULI (Alg)	26.12.89
5	Fernando GAGO (Arg)	10.04.86
17	Andres GUARDADO (Mex)	28.09.86
21	Dani PAREJO	16.04.89
FORWARDS		
16	Nelson HAEDO VALDEZ (Par)	28.11.83
7	JONAS (Bra)	01.04.84
11	Pablo PIATTI (Arg)	31.03.89
9	Roberto SOLDADO	27.05.85
15	Jonathan VIERA	21.10.89
COACH		
	Mauricio PELLEGRINO (Arg)	05.10.71

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AC AJACCIO

GOALKEEPERS		
30	David OBERHAUSER	29.11.89
1	Guillermo OCHOA (Mex)	13.07.85
16	Oumar SISSOKO (Mli)	13.09.87
DEFENDERS		
13	Fabrice BEGEORGI	20.04.87
26	Samuel BOUHOURS	26.06.87
22	Fousseni DIAWARA	28.08.80
28	FELIPE (Bra)	11.09.83
5	Ammar JEMAL (Tun)	20.04.87
20	Anthony LIPPINI	07.11.88
23	Arnaud MAIRE	06.03.79
6	Carl MEDJANI (Alg)	15.05.85
17	Yoann POULARD	01.07.76
MIDFIELDERS		
7	Benjamin ANDRE	03.08.90
10	Chahir BELGHAZOUANI	06.10.86
18	Johan CAVALLI	12.09.81
25	Brandon DEVILLE (Blg)	17.02.93
27	Sigamary DIARRA (Mli)	10.01.84
11	Karim EL HANY	12.01.88
4	Ricardo FATY	04.08.86
19	Paul LASNE	16.01.89
14	Mehdi MOSTEFA (Alg)	30.08.83
8	Jean-Baptiste PIERAZZI	17.06.85
21	Frederic SAMMARITANO	23.03.86
24	Damien TIBERI	23.08.85
31	Wilfried ZAHIBO	21.08.93
FORWARDS		
9	Andy DELORT	09.10.91
29	EDUARDO (Bra)	05.08.80
15	David GIGLIOTTI	30.05.85
12	Adrian MUTU (Rom)	08.01.79
COACH		
	Alex DUPONT	30.05.54

BASTIA

GOALKEEPERS		
30	Dominique AGOSTINI	28.09.89
16	Landry BONNEFOI	28.09.83
1	Macedo NOVAES (Bra)	30.03.83
DEFENDERS		
6	Gael ANGOULA	18.07.82
24	Jeremy CHOPLIN	09.02.85
29	Gilles CIONI	14.06.84
21	Fethi HAREK (Alg)	21.10.82
7	Sylvain MARCHAL	10.02.80
11	Francois MARQUE	31.07.83
19	Maka MARY	27.03.89
20	Matthieu SANS	16.06.88
MIDFIELDERS		
18	Yannick CAHUZAC	18.01.85
10	Wahbi KHAZRI (Tun)	08.02.91
13	Salim MOIZINI	17.10.85
15	Julian PALMIERI	17.12.86
25	Jerome ROTHEN	31.03.78
17	Florian THAUVIN	26.01.93
23	Christophe VINCENT	08.11.92
22	Sambou YATABARE (Mli)	02.03.89
FORWARDS		
9	Yassin EL AZZOUZI	13.01.83
28	ILAN (Bra)	18.09.80
8	Toifilou MAOULIDA	08.06.79
27	Anthony MODESTE	14.04.88
26	Gaetan VARENNE	24.06.90
COACH		
	Frederic HANTZ	30.05.66

BORDEAUX

GOALKEEPERS		
16	Cedric CARRASSO	30.12.81
40	Azbe JUG (Sln)	03.03.92
1	Abdoulaye KEITA	16.08.90
30	Kevin OLIMPA	10.03.88
DEFENDERS		
21	Mathieu CHALME	07.10.80
3	HENRIQUE (Bra)	02.05.83
23	Florian MARANGE	03.03.86
25	MARIANO (Bra)	23.06.86
27	Marc PLANUS	07.03.82
29	Maxime POUNDJE	16.08.92
6	Ludovic SANE (Sen)	22.03.87
28	Benoit TREMOULINAS	28.12.85
MIDFIELDERS		
8	Fahid BEN KHALFALLAH (Tun)	09.10.82
10	JUSSIE (Bra)	19.09.83
19	Nicolas MAURICE-BELAY	19.04.85
7	Landry N'GUEMO (Cam)	28.11.85
4	Ludovic OBRANIAK (Pol)	10.11.84
18	Jaroslav PLASIL (CzR)	05.01.82
17	Andre POKO (Gab)	01.01.93
26	Gregory SERTIC	05.08.89
24	Abdou TRAORE (Mli)	17.01.88
FORWARDS		
11	David BELLION	27.11.82
14	Cheikh DIABATE (Mli)	25.04.88
9	Yoan GOUFFRAN	25.05.86
12	Hadi SACKO	24.03.94
20	Henri SAIVET	26.10.90
COACH		
	Francis GILLOT	09.02.60

BREST

GOALKEEPERS		
16	Lionel CAPPONE	08.02.79
30	Joan HARTOCK	17.02.87
40	Mathieu KERVESTIN	21.05.93
1	Alexis THEBAUX	17.03.85
DEFENDERS		
12	Paul BAYSSE	15.05.88
18	Moise BROU (Gab)	04.02.82
22	Ousmane COULIBALY (Mli)	09.07.89
24	Ahmed KANTARI (Mor)	28.06.85
29	Gregory LORENZI	17.12.83
3	Tripy MAKONDA	24.01.90
4	Johan MARTIAL	30.05.91
5	Bernard MENDY	20.08.81
8	Ismael TRAORE	18.08.86
MIDFIELDERS		
17	Adama BA (Mra)	27.08.93
25	Kamel CHAFNI (Mor)	11.06.82
2	Jhon CULMA (Col)	17.03.81
20	Geoffrey DERNIS	24.12.80
21	Brahim FERRADJ (Alg)	04.09.87
6	Bruno GROUGI	26.04.83
28	Diallo GUIDILEYE	30.12.89
13	Abel KHALED (Tun)	09.11.92
19	Benoit LESOIMIER	21.02.83
27	Mario LICKA (CzR)	30.04.82
26	Abdou SISSOKO	20.03.90
FORWARDS		
14	Alexandre ALPHONSE	17.06.82
7	Jonathan AYITE (Tog)	22.07.85
9	Eden BEN BASAT (Isr)	08.09.86
23	Charlison BENSCHOP (Hol)	21.08.89
11	Richard SOUMAH (Gui)	06.10.86
10	Larsen TOURE	20.07.84
COACH		
	Landry CHAUVIN	07.12.68

EVIAN

GOALKEEPERS		
30	Stephan ANDERSEN (Den)	26.11.81
1	Johann DURAND	17.06.81
16	Bertrand LAQUAIT	13.04.77
DEFENDERS		
17	Aldo ANGOULA	04.05.81
22	Cedric CAMBON	20.09.86
5	Iheb MBARKI (Tun)	14.02.92
25	Jonathan MENSAH (Gha)	13.07.90
21	Cedric MONGONGU (DRC)	22.06.89
18	Daniel WASS (Den)	31.05.89
MIDFIELDERS		
14	Cedric BARBOSA	06.03.76
15	Zouhaeir DHAOUADI (Tun)	01.01.88
26	Brice DJA DJEDJE (IvC)	23.12.90
28	Fabrice EHRET	28.09.79
3	David JAROLIM (CzR)	17.05.79
6	Djakaridja KONE (BuF)	22.07.86
19	Guillaume LACOUR	02.08.80
2	Mohammed RABIU (Gha)	31.12.89
24	Olivier SORLIN	09.04.79
4	Eric TIE BI	20.07.90
FORWARDS		
27	Youssef ADNANE (Mor)	16.07.85
9	Kevin BERIGAUD	03.03.84
10	Herve BUGNET	24.08.81
8	Sidney GOVOU	27.07.79
29	Saber KHELIFA (Tun)	14.10.86
7	Ali M'MADI (Com)	21.04.90
20	Yannick SAGBO (IvC)	12.04.88
COACH		
	Pascal DUPRAZ	19.09.62

LILLE

GOALKEEPERS		
16	Steeve ELANA	11.07.80
1	Mickael LANDREAU	14.05.79
30	Barel MOUKO (Con)	05.04.79
DEFENDERS		
25	Marko BASA (Ser)	29.12.82
18	Franck BERIA	23.05.83
21	Laurent BONNART	25.12.79
22	Aurelien CHEDJOU (Cam)	20.06.85
2	Mathieu DEBUCHY	28.07.85
3	Lucas DIGNE	20.07.93
14	David ROZEHNAL (CzR)	05.07.80
15	Djibril SIDIBE	29.07.92
13	Adama SOUMAORO (IvC)	18.06.92
MIDFIELDERS		
4	Florent BALMONT	02.02.80
5	Idrissa GUEYE (Sen)	26.09.89
10	Marvin MARTIN	10.06.88
24	Rio MAVUBA	08.03.84
7	Dimitri PAYET	29.03.87
17	Benoit PEDRETTI	12.11.80
FORWARDS		
19	Gianni BRUNO (Blg)	19.08.91
9	Tulio DE MELO (Bra)	31.01.85
8	Salomon KALOU (IvC)	05.08.85
28	Dorian KLONARIDIS (Blg)	28.07.92
11	Ryan MENDES (CVI)	08.01.90
20	Ronny RODELIN	18.11.89
26	Nolan ROUX	01.03.88
COACH		
	Rudi GARCIA	20.02.64

LORIENT

GOALKEEPERS		
16	Fabien AUDARD	28.03.78
30	Florent CHAIGNEAU	21.03.84
1	Benjamin LECOMTE	26.04.91
DEFENDERS		
17	Maxime BACA	02.06.83
6	Gregory BOURILLON	01.07.84
25	Lamine GASSAMA (Sen)	20.10.89
2	Lamine KONE	01.02.89
24	Wesley LAUTOA (NwC)	25.08.87
14	Arnaud LE LAN	22.03.78
5	Bruno Ecuele MANGA (Gab)	16.07.88
12	Lucas MAREQUE (Arg)	12.01.83
3	PEDRINHO (Por)	06.03.85
29	Cheick TOURE (IvC)	16.12.92
MIDFIELDERS		
23	Mathias AUTRET	01.03.91
28	Maxime BARTHELME	08.09.88
7	Benjamin CORGNET	06.04.87
10	Mathieu COUTADEUR	20.06.86
19	Ludovic GIULY	10.07.76
8	Yann JOUFFRE	23.07.84
26	Remi MULUMBA	02.11.92
27	Enzo REALE	07.10.91
4	Alaixys ROMAO (Tog)	18.01.84
21	Alain TRAORE (BuF)	31.12.88
FORWARDS		
11	Jeremie ALIADIERE	30.03.83
9	Innocent EMEGHARA (Swi)	27.05.89
22	Kevin MONNET-PAQUET	19.08.88
20	Julien QUERCIA	17.08.86
15	Fabien ROBERT	06.01.89
18	Gilles SUNU	30.03.91
COACH		
	Christian GOURCUFF	05.04.55

LYON

GOALKEEPERS		
40	Mathieu GORGELIN	05.08.90
16	Anthony LOPES (Por)	01.10.90
1	Remy VERCOUTRE	26.06.80
DEFENDERS		
15	Milan BISEVAC (Ser)	31.08.83
14	Mouhamadou DABO (Sen)	28.11.86
4	Bakari KONE (BuF)	27.04.88
5	Dejan LOVREN (Cro)	05.07.89
20	Fabian MONZON (Arg)	13.04.87
13	Anthony REVEILLERE	10.11.79
23	Samuel UMTITI	14.11.93
2	Mehdi ZEFFANE	19.05.92
MIDFIELDERS		
11	Michel BASTOS (Bra)	02.08.83
12	Jordan FERRI	12.03.92
6	Gueida FOFANA	16.05.91
31	Rachid GHEZZAL (Alg)	09.05.92
21	Maxime GONALONS	10.03.89
8	Yoann GOURCUFF	11.07.86
7	Clement GRENIER	07.01.91
22	Sidy KONE (Mli)	06.06.92
17	Steed MALBRANQUE	06.01.80
28	Arnold MVUEMBA	28.01.85
FORWARDS		
25	Yassine BENZIA	08.09.94
19	Jimmy BRIAND	02.05.85
18	Bafetibis GOMIS	06.08.85
10	Alexandre LACAZETTE	28.05.91
9	Lisandro LOPEZ (Arg)	02.03.83
36	Harry NOVILLO	11.02.92
COACH		
	Remi GARDE	03.04.66

MARSEILLE

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Gennaro BRACIGLIANO	01.03.80
40	Julien FABRI	05.02.94
30	Steve MANDANDA	28.03.85
DEFENDERS		
2	Kassim ABDALLAH (Com)	09.04.87
32	Gael ANDONION	07.02.95
21	Souleymane DIAWARA (Sen)	24.12.78
24	Rod FANNI	06.12.81
22	Senah MANGO (Tog)	13.12.91
14	Pape M'BOW (Sen)	22.05.88
4	Lucas MENDES (Bra)	03.07.90
15	Jeremy MOREL	02.04.84
5	Leyti N'DIAYE (Sen)	19.08.85
3	Nicolas NKOULOU (Cam)	27.03.90
MIDFIELDERS		
13	Rafidine ABDULLAH	15.01.94
18	Morgan AMALFITANO	20.03.85
26	Larry AZOUNI	23.03.94
31	Momar BANGOURA	24.02.94
6	Joey BARTON (Eng)	02.09.82
7	Benoit CHEYROU	03.05.81
23	Wesley JOBELLO	23.01.94
19	Charles KABORE (BuF)	09.02.88
17	Alexander N'DOUMBOU (Gab)	04.01.92
12	Kevin OSEI (Gha)	26.03.91
28	Mathieu VALBUENA	28.09.84
FORWARDS		
20	Najib AMMARI (Alg)	10.04.92
10	Andre AYEW (Gha)	17.12.89
8	Jordan AYEW (Gha)	11.09.91
9	Andre-Pierre GIGNAC	12.05.85
25	Billel OMRANI	02.06.93
27	Florian RASPENTINO	06.06.89
11	Loic REMY	02.01.87
COACH		
	Elie BAUP	17.03.55

MONTPELLIER

GOALKEEPERS		
16	Geoffrey JOURDREN	04.02.86
30	Jonathan LIGALI	28.05.91
1	Laurent PIONNIER	24.05.82
DEFENDERS		
5	Henri BEDIMO (Cam)	04.06.84
2	Garry BOCALY	19.04.88
12	Daniel CONGRE	05.04.85
21	Abdelhamid EL KAOUTARI (Mor)	17.03.90
25	Mathieu DEPLAGNE	01.10.91
4	HILTON (Bra)	13.09.77
27	Cyril JEUNECHAMP	18.12.75
31	Teddy MEZAGUE	27.05.90
22	Benjamin STAMBOULI	13.08.90
3	Mapou YANGA-MBIWA	15.05.89
MIDFIELDERS		
10	Younes BELHANDA (Mor)	25.02.90
20	Remy CABELLA	08.03.90
32	Adrien COULOMB	04.10.90
26	Bryan DABO	18.02.92
13	Marco ESTRADA (Chl)	28.05.83
29	Guillaume LEGRAS	17.01.90
28	Jonas MARTIN	09.04.90
6	Joris MARVEAUX	15.08.82
14	Romain PITAU	08.08.77
23	Jamel SAIHI (Tun)	27.01.87
15	Jonathan TINHAN	01.06.89
FORWARDS		
18	Karim AIT-FANA (Mor)	25.02.89
19	Souleymane CAMARA (Sen)	22.12.82
9	Gaetan CHARBONNIER	27.12.88
11	Emmanuel HERRERA (Arg)	13.04.87
34	Abdoul KARIM SYLLA (Hol)	23.01.92
8	Anthony MOUNIER	27.09.87
7	John UTAKA (Nga)	08.01.82
COACH		
	Rene GIRARD	03.04.54

NANCY

GOALKEEPERS		
16	Damien GREGORINI	02.03.79
30	Paul NARDI	18.05.94
1	Guy N'DY ASSEMBE (Cam)	28.02.86
DEFENDERS		
17	Massadio HAIDARA (Sen)	02.12.92
2	HELDER (Bra)	13.04.88
21	Julian JEANVIER	31.03.92
4	Jordan LOTIES	05.08.84
5	Andre LUIZ (Bra)	27.01.80
6	Thomas MANGANI	29.04.87
26	Vincent MURATORI	03.06.87
28	Sebastien PUYGRENIER	28.01.82
3	Joel SAMI (DRC)	13.11.84
20	Salif SANE	25.08.90
MIDFIELDERS		
27	Thomas AYASSE	17.02.87
11	Djamel BAKAR	06.04.89
24	Pascal BERENGUER	20.05.81
13	Abdou DAMPHA (Gam)	27.12.91
29	Romain GRANGE	21.07.88
7	Ziri HAMMAR (Alg)	25.07.92
25	Jeff LOUIS (Hai)	08.08.90
8	Yohan MOLLO	18.07.89
15	Fouad RACHID (Com)	15.11.91
FORWARDS		
14	Paul ALO'O (Cam)	12.11.83
12	Junior JOACHIM	13.05.92
18	Lossemy KARABOUE	18.03.88
9	Benjamin MOUKANDJO (Cam)	12.11.88
22	Simon ZENKE (Nga)	24.12.88
COACH		
	Jean FERNANDEZ	08.10.54

NICE

GOALKEEPERS		
30	Joris DELLE	29.03.90
16	Raul FERNANDEZ (Per)	06.10.85
40	Mouez HASSAN	05.03.95
1	David OSPINA (Col)	31.08.88
DEFENDERS		
22	Julien BERTHOMIER	15.04.90
2	Renato CIVELLI (Arg)	14.10.83
13	Valentin EYSSERIC	25.03.92
26	Diacko FOFANA	29.07.94
25	Romain GENEVOIS (Hai)	28.10.87
5	Kevin GOMIS	20.01.89
3	Timothee KOLODZIEJCZAK	01.10.91
24	Moussa M'BOW (Sen)	07.02.92
4	Nemanja PEJCINOVIC (Ser)	04.11.87
MIDFIELDERS		
7	Fabrice ABRIEL	06.07.79
17	Kevin ANIN	05.07.86
11	Eric BAUTHEAC	24.08.87
23	Alexy BOSETTI	23.04.93
28	Fabien DAO CASTELLANA	28.07.93
19	Kevin DIAZ	18.08.88
6	Didier DIGARD	12.07.86
27	Cyril HENNION	03.01.92
10	Camel MERIEM	18.10.79
21	Lloyd PALUN (Gab)	28.11.88
8	Mahamane TRAORE (Mli)	31.08.88
FORWARDS		
29	Stephane BAHOKEN	28.05.92
12	Dario CVITANICH (Arg)	16.05.84
9	Xavier PENTECOTE	13.08.86
14	Jeremy PIED	23.02.89
COACH		
	Claude PUEL	02.09.61

PARIS S-G

GOALKEEPERS		
16	Alphonse AREOLA	27.02.93
1	Nicolas DOUCHEZ	22.04.80
40	Ronan LE CROM	13.07.74
30	Salvatore SIRIGU (Ita)	12.01.87
DEFENDERS		
13	ALEX (Bra)	17.06.82
22	Sylvain ARMAND	01.08.80
6	Zoumana CAMARA	03.04.79
26	Christophe JALLET	31.10.83
15	Diego LUGANO (Uru)	02.11.80
17	MAXWELL (Bra)	27.08.81
3	Mamadou SAKHO	13.02.90
2	Thiago SILVA (Bra)	22.09.84
5	Siake TIENE (IvC)	22.02.82
23	Gregory VAN DER WIEL (Hol)	03.02.88
MIDFIELDERS		
12	Mathieu BODMER	22.11.82
20	Clement CHANTOME	11.09.87
14	Blaise MATUIDI	09.04.87
7	Jeremy MENEZ	07.05.87
28	Thiago MOTTA (Ita)	28.08.82
10	NENE (Bra)	19.07.81
27	Javier PASTORE (Arg)	20.06.89
25	Adrien RABIOT	03.04.95
4	Mohamed SISSOKO (Mli)	22.01.85
24	Marco VERRATTI (Ita)	05.11.92
FORWARDS		
19	Kevin GAMEIRO	09.04.87
9	Guillaume HOARAU	05.03.84
18	Zlatan IBRAHIMOVIC (Swe)	03.10.81
11	Ezequiel LAVEZZI (Arg)	03.05.85
8	Peguy LUYINDULA	25.05.79
COACH		
	Carlo ANCELOTTI (Ita)	10.06.59

REIMS

GOALKEEPERS		
16	Kossi AGASSA (Tog)	07.07.78
1	Johan LIEBUS	05.11.78
30	Jeremy MALHERBE	15.03.91
DEFENDERS		
2	Mohamed FOFANA (Mli)	07.03.85
27	Christopher GLOMBARD	05.06.89
23	Aissa MANDI	22.10.91
15	Khalid SEKKAT (Mor)	12.05.84
3	Franck SIGNORINO	19.09.81
26	Pape SOUARE (Sen)	06.06.90
22	Mickael TACALFRED	23.04.81
25	Anthony WEBER	11.06.87
MIDFIELDERS		
21	Bocundji CA (GuB)	28.12.86
6	Antoine DEVAUX	21.02.85
11	DIEGO (Bra)	09.03.88
24	Florent GHISOLFI	28.02.85
4	Grzegorz KRYCHOWIAK (Pol)	29.01.90
20	Quentin PEREIRA	21.04.92
19	Alexi PEUGET	18.12.90
8	Johann RAMARE	05.06.84
FORWARDS		
10	Floyd AYITE (Tog)	15.12.88
17	Josue BALAMANDJI (CAR)	09.08.89
28	Yann BENEDICK	01.02.92
18	Gaetan COURTET	22.02.89
13	Nicolas FAUVERGUE	13.10.84
7	Odair FORTES (CVI)	31.03.87
5	Kamel GHILAS (Alg)	09.03.84
9	Julien TOUDIC	19.12.85
COACH		
	Hubert FOURNIER	03.09.67

RENNES

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Benoit COSTIL	03.07.87
16	Abdoulaye DIALLO	30.03.92
30	Cheikh N'DIAYE (Sen)	15.02.85
DEFENDERS		
4	Onyekachi APAM (Nga)	30.12.85
25	John BOYE (Gha)	23.04.87
24	Dimitri FOULQUIER	23.03.93
22	Yassine JEBBOUR (Mor)	24.08.91
5	Jean-Armel KANA-BIYIK	03.07.89
3	Chris MAVINGA	26.05.91
2	Kevin THEOPHILE-CATHERINE	28.10.89
MIDFIELDERS		
19	Romain ALESSANDRINI	03.04.89
29	Romain DANZE	03.07.86
8	Julien FERET	05.07.82
15	Jean MAKOUN (Cam)	29.05.83
17	Yann M'VILA	29.06.90
14	Axel NGANDO	13.07.93
26	Vincent PAJOT	19.08.90
7	Jonathan PITROIPA (BuF)	12.04.86
FORWARDS		
10	Sadio DIALLO (Gui)	28.12.90
18	Cheick DIARRA (Mli)	11.02.92
9	Mevlut ERDINC (Tur)	25.02.87
21	Victor MONTANO (Col)	01.05.84
27	Abdoulaye SANE (Sen)	15.10.92
COACH		
	Frederic ANTONETTI	19.08.61

SAINT-ETIENNE

GOALKEEPERS		
40	Abdoulaye COULIBALY (Sen)	02.03.88
30	Jessy MOULIN	13.01.86
16	Stephane RUFFIER	27.09.86
DEFENDERS		
5	Moustapha BAYAL SALL (Sen)	30.11.85
29	Francois CLERC	18.04.83
13	Faouzi GHOULAM	01.02.91
18	Fabien LEMOINE	16.03.87
12	Jean-Pascal MIGNOT	26.02.81
4	Kurt ZOUMA	27.10.94
MIDFIELDERS		
8	Alejandro ALONSO (Arg)	03.03.82
20	Jonathan BRISON	07.02.83
11	Jeremy CLEMENT	26.08.84
10	Renaud COHADE	29.09.84
28	Ismael DIOMANDE (IvC)	28.08.92
9	Max GRADEL (IvC)	30.11.87
19	Josua GUILAVOGUI	19.09.90
21	Romain HAMOUMA	29.03.87
25	Banel NICOLITA (Rom)	07.01.85
24	Loic PERRIN	07.08.85
FORWARDS		
22	Danijel ALEKSIC (Ser)	30.04.91
7	Pierre-Emerick AUBAMEYANG (Gab)	18.06.89
14	BRANDAO (Bra)	16.06.80
15	Kevin MAYI	14.01.93
COACH		
	Christophe GALTIER	28.08.66

SOCHAUX

GOALKEEPERS		
30	Papa Demba CAMARA (Sen)	16.01.93
1	Pierrick CROS	23.06.91
16	Simon POUPLIN	28.05.85
DEFENDERS		
3	Yaya BANANA (Cam)	09.07.91
2	Sebastien CORCHIA	01.11.90
25	Omar DAF (Sen)	12.02.77
19	Frederic DUPLUS	07.04.90
6	Cedric KANTE (Mli)	06.07.79
11	Yassin MIKARI (Tun)	09.01.83
17	Mathieu PEYBERNES	21.10.90
23	David SAUGET	23.11.79
MIDFIELDERS		
10	Ryad BOUDEBOUZ (Alg)	19.02.90
29	Petrus BOUMAL (Cam)	20.04.93
5	CARLAO (Bra)	19.01.86
12	Roy CONTOUT	11.02.85
7	Rafael DIAS (Por)	29.01.91
4	Thierry DOUBAI (IVC)	01.07.88
8	Joseph LOPY (Sen)	15.03.92
21	Vincent NOGUEIRA	16.01.88
27	Loic POUJOL	27.02.89
26	Sanjin PRCIC (Bos)	20.11.93
18	Sebastien ROUDET	16.06.81
24	Kalilou TRAORE (Mli)	09.09.87
15	Ishmael YARTEY (Gha)	11.01.90
FORWARDS		
22	Cedric BAKAMBU	11.04.91
20	Edouard BUTIN	16.06.88
13	Abdoul CAMARA (Gui)	20.02.90
28	King OSANGA (Nga)	06.10.90
9	Sloan PRIVAT	24.07.89
COACH		
	Eric HELY	25.10.64

TOULOUSE

GOALKEEPERS		
30	Ali AHAMADA	19.08.91
16	Olivier BLONDEL	09.07.79
1	Marc VIDAL	03.06.91
DEFENDERS		
23	Aymen ABDENNOUR (Tun)	06.08.89
4	Jean-Daniel AKPA AKPRO	11.10.92
19	Serge AURIER	24.12.92
15	Mickael FIRMIN	21.09.90
12	Cheikh M'BENGUE (Sen)	23.07.88
24	Pavle NINKOV (Ser)	20.04.85
11	Jonathan ZEBINA	19.07.78
MIDFIELDERS		
7	Wissam BEN YEDDER	12.08.90
29	Etienne CAPOUE	11.07.88
8	Etienne DIDOT	24.07.83
17	Adrien REGATTIN	22.08.91
14	Francois SIRIEIX	07.10.80
22	Moussa SISSOKO	16.08.89
10	Franck TABANOU	30.01.89
FORWARDS		
18	Yannick AGUEMON	11.02.92
25	Daniel BRAATEN (Nor)	25.05.82
27	Yannick DJALO (Por)	05.05.86
9	Emmanuel RIVIERE	03.03.90
COACH		
	Alain CASANOVA	18.09.61

TROYES

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Matthieu DREYER	20.03.89
16	Yohann THURAM	31.10.88
DEFENDERS		
25	Jeremie BRECHET	14.08.79
12	Maxime COLIN	15.11.91
3	Stephen DROUIN	27.01.84
15	Florian JARJAT	18.02.80
21	Fabrice N'SAKALA	21.07.90
26	Julien OUTREBON	16.06.83
11	RINCON (Bra)	31.05.87
5	Matthieu SAUNIER	07.02.90
MIDFIELDERS		
22	Fabien CAMUS (Tun)	28.02.85
4	Stephane DARBION	22.03.84
6	Eloge ENZA YAMISSI (CAR)	23.01.83
27	Julien FAUSSURIER	14.01.87
20	Granddi NGOYI	17.05.88
10	Benjamin NIVET	02.01.77
8	Mounir OBBADI (Mor)	04.04.83
29	Quentin OTHON	27.03.88
14	Thiago XAVIER (Bra)	27.12.83
FORWARDS		
19	Jean-Christophe BAHEBECK	01.05.93
28	Gregory BETTIOL	30.03.86
17	Mohamed CAMARA (Gui)	20.09.90
18	Georges GOPE-FENEPEJ (NwC)	23.10.88
2	Sebastien GRAX	23.06.84
9	MARCOS (Bra)	29.08.79
7	Benjamin PSAUME	12.01.85
23	Mohamed YATTARA (Gui)	28.07.93
COACH		
	Jean-Marc FURLAN	20.11.57

VALENCIENNES

GOALKEEPERS		
16	Jean-Louis LECA	21.09.85
1	Nicolas PENNETEAU	28.02.81
DEFENDERS		
5	Benjamin ANGOUA (IvC)	28.11.86
24	Gaetan BONG (Cam)	25.04.88
2	David DUCOURTIOUX	11.04.78
4	GIL (Bra)	12.06.87
15	Nicolas ISIMAT-MIRIN	15.11.91
18	Kenny LALA	03.10.91
25	Rudy MATER	13.10.80
17	Loris NERY	05.02.91
13	Mody TRAORE	14.07.80
MIDFIELDERS		
11	Pape CAMARA (Sen)	24.09.91
8	Gael DANIC	19.11.81
26	Marco DA SILVA	10.04.92
7	Dusan DJURIC (Swe)	16.09.84
10	Mathieu DOSSEVI	12.02.88
12	Remi GOMIS (Sen)	14.02.84
14	Foued KADIR (Alg)	05.12.83
23	Jose SAEZ	07.05.82
6	Carlos SANCHEZ (Col)	06.02.86
FORWARDS		
9	Vincent ABOUBAKAR (Cam)	22.01.92
19	Anthony LE TALLEC	03.10.84
22	Kama MASSAMPU	26.12.91
28	Gregory PUJOL	25.01.80
COACH		
	Daniel SANCHEZ	21.11.53

ENGLAND PREMIER LEAGUE 2012-13

ARSENAL

GOALKEEPERS		
21	Lukasz FABIANSKI (Pol)	18.04.85
24	Vito MANNONE (Ita)	02.03.88
1	Wojciech SZCZESNY (Pol)	18.04.90
DEFENDERS		
20	Johan DJOUROU (Swi)	18.01.87
28	Kieran GIBBS	26.09.89
25	Carl JENKINSON (Fin)	08.02.92
6	Laurent KOSCIELNY (Fra)	10.09.85
4	Per MERTESACKER (Ger)	29.09.84
3	Bacary SAGNA (Fra)	14.02.83
11	Andre SANTOS (Bra)	08.03.83
18	Sebastien SQUILLACI (Fra)	11.08.80
5	Thomas VERMAELEN (Blg)	14.11.85
MIDFIELDERS		
8	Mikel ARTETA (Spa)	26.03.82
19	Santi CAZORLA (Spa)	13.12.84
22	Francis COQUELIN (Fra)	13.05.91
2	Abou DIABY (Fra)	11.05.86
26	Emmanuel FRIMPONG	10.01.92
15	Alex OXLADE-CHAMBERLAIN	15.08.93
16	Aaron RAMSEY (Wal)	26.12.90
7	Tomas ROSICKY (CzR)	04.10.80
10	Jack WILSHERE	01.01.92
FORWARDS		
23	Andrey ARSHAVIN (Rus)	29.05.81
29	Marouane CHAMAKH (Mor)	10.01.84
27	GERVINHO (IvC)	27.05.87
12	Olivier GIROUD (Fra)	30.09.86
9	Lukas PODOLSKI (Ger)	04.06.85
14	Theo WALCOTT	16.03.89
MANAGER		
	Arsene WENGER (Fra)	22.10.49

ASTON VILLA

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Shay GIVEN (RoI)	20.04.76
22	Brad GUZAN (USA)	09.09.84
33	Andy MARSHALL	14.04.75
DEFENDERS		
32	Nathan BAKER	23.04.91
27	Joe BENNETT	28.03.90
6	Ciaran CLARK (RoI)	26.09.89
5	Richard DUNNE (RoI)	21.09.79
2	Alan HUTTON (Sco)	30.11.84
30	Eric LICHAJ (USA)	17.11.88
34	Matthew LOWTON	09.06.89
29	Enda STEVENS (RoI)	09.07.90
4	Ron VLAAR (Hol)	16.02.85
MIDFIELDERS		
12	Marc ALBRIGHTON	18.11.89
25	Barry BANNAN (Sco)	01.12.89
40	Samir CARRUTHERS (RoI)	04.04.93
16	Fabian DELPH	21.11.89
8	Karim EL AHMADI (Mor)	27.01.85
38	Gary GARDNER	29.06.92
31	Chris HERD (Aus)	04.04.89
14	Brett HOLMAN (Aus)	27.03.84
7	Stephen IRELAND (RoI)	22.08.86
10	Charles N'ZOGBIA (Fra)	28.05.86
19	Stiliyan PETROV (Bul)	05.07.79
15	Ashley WESTWOOD	01.04.90
FORWARDS		
11	Gabriel AGBONLAHOR	13.10.86
9	Darren BENT	06.02.84
20	Christian BENTEKE (Blg)	03.12.90
21	Jordan BOWERY	02.07.91
36	Graham BURKE (RoI)	21.09.93
26	Andreas WEIMANN (Aut)	05.08.91
MANAGER		
	Paul LAMBERT (Sco)	07.08.69

CHELSEA

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Petr CECH (CzR)	20.05.82
40	HILARIO (Por)	21.10.75
22	Ross TURNBULL	04.01.85
DEFENDERS		
28	Cesar AZPILICUETA (Spa)	28.08.89
34	Ryan BERTRAND	05.08.89
24	Gary CAHILL	19.12.85
3	Ashley COLE	20.12.80
19	Paulo FERREIRA (Por)	18.01.79
2	Branislav IVANOVIC (Ser)	22.02.84
4	David LUIZ (Bra)	22.04.87
26	John TERRY	07.12.80
MIDFIELDERS		
17	Eden HAZARD (Blg)	07.01.91
8	Frank LAMPARD	20.06.78
15	Florent MALOUDA (Fra)	13.06.80
21	Marko MARIN (Ger)	13.03.89
10	Juan MATA (Spa)	28.04.88
12	John Obi MIKEL (Nga)	22.04.87
11	OSCAR (Bra)	09.09.91
7	RAMIRES (Bra)	24.03.87
6	Oriol ROMEU (Spa)	24.09.91
FORWARDS		
13	Victor MOSES (Nga)	12.12.90
35	Lucas PIAZON (Bra)	20.01.94
23	Daniel STURRIDGE	01.09.89
9	Fernando TORRES (Spa)	20.03.84
MANAGER		
	Robert DI MATTEO (Ita)	29.05.70

EVERTON

GOALKEEPERS		
24	Tim HOWARD (USA)	06.03.79
1	Jan MUCHA (Slk)	05.12.82
DEFENDERS		
3	Leighton BAINES	11.12.84
23	Seamus COLEMAN (RoI)	11.10.88
15	Sylvain DISTIN (Fra)	16.12.77
34	Shane DUFFY (RoI)	01.01.92
42	Luke GARBUTT	21.05.93
5	John HEITINGA (Hol)	15.11.83
2	Tony HIBBERT	20.02.81
6	Phil JAGIELKA	17.08.82
18	Phil NEVILLE	21.01.77
MIDFIELDERS		
20	Ross BARKLEY	05.12.93
25	Marouane FELLAINI (Blg)	22.11.87
4	Darron GIBSON (RoI)	25.10.87
31	Matthew KENNEDY (Sco)	01.11.94
21	Leon OSMAN	17.05.81
8	Bryan OVIEDO (CR)	18.02.90
22	Steven PIENAAR (SAf)	17.03.82
FORWARDS		
28	Victor ANICHEBE (Nga)	23.04.88
19	Magaye GUEYE (Sen)	06.07.90
7	Nikica JELAVIC (Cro)	27.08.85
43	Conor McALENY	12.08.92
11	Kevin MIRALLAS (Blg)	05.10.87
14	Steven NAISMITH (Sco)	14.09.86
27	Apostolos VELLIOS (Gre)	08.01.92
MANAGER		
	David MOYES (Sco)	25.04.63

FULHAM

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Mark SCHWARZER (Aus)	06.10.72
22	Csaba SOMOGYI (Hun)	07.04.85
13	David STOCKDALE	20.09.85
DEFENDERS		
6	Chris BAIRD (NI)	25.02.82
17	Matthew BRIGGS	19.03.91
5	Brede HANGELAND (Nor)	20.06.81
18	Aaron HUGHES (NI)	08.11.79
2	Stephen KELLY (RoI)	06.09.83
27	Sascha RIETHER (Ger)	23.03.83
3	John Arne RIISE (Nor)	24.09.80
4	Philippe SENDEROS (Swi)	14.02.85
MIDFIELDERS		
29	Simon DAVIES (Wal)	23.10.79
19	Mahamadou DIARRA (Mli)	18.05.81
16	Damien DUFF (RoI)	02.03.79
21	Kerim FREI (Swi)	19.11.93
31	Alex KACANIKLIC (Swe)	13.08.91
14	Giorgos KARAGOUNIS (Gre)	06.03.77
8	Pajtim KASAMI (Swi)	02.06.92
15	Kieran RICHARDSON	21.10.84
7	Steve SIDWELL	14.12.82
FORWARDS		
9	Dimitar BERBATOV (Bul)	30.01.81
24	Ashkan DEJAGAH (Irn)	05.07.86
10	Mladen PETRIC (Cro)	01.01.81
20	Hugo RODALLEGA (Col)	25.07.85
11	Bryan RUIZ (CR)	18.08.85
39	Marcello TROTTA (Ita)	29.09.92
MANAGER		
	Martin JOL (Hol)	16.01.56

LIVERPOOL

GOALKEEPERS		
32	DONI (Bra)	22.10.79
42	Peter GULACSI (Hun)	06.05.90
1	Brad JONES (Aus)	19.03.82
25	Pepe REINA (Spa)	31.08.82
DEFENDERS		
5	Daniel AGGER (Den)	12.12.84
23	Jamie CARRAGHER	28.01.78
16	Sebastian COATES (Uru)	07.10.90
3	Jose ENRIQUE (Spa)	23.01.86
38	Jon FLANAGAN	21.01.93
2	Glen JOHNSON	23.08.84
34	Martin KELLY	27.04.90
49	Jack ROBINSON	01.09.93
37	Martin SKRTEL (Slk)	15.12.84
22	Danny WILSON (Sco)	27.12.91
47	Andre WISDOM	09.05.93
MIDFIELDERS		
24	Joe ALLEN (Wal)	14.03.90
11	Oussama ASSAIDI (Mor)	05.08.88
10	Joe COLE	08.11.81
19	Stewart DOWNING	22.07.84
8	Steven GERRARD	30.05.80
14	Jordan HENDERSON	17.06.90
21	LUCAS Leiva (Bra)	09.01.87
4	Nuri SAHIN (Tur)	05.09.88
33	Jonjo SHELVEY	27.02.92
31	Raheem STERLING	08.12.94
FORWARDS		
29	Fabio BORINI (Ita)	23.03.91
50	Adam MORGAN	21.04.94
12	Daniel PACHECO (Spa)	05.01.91
7	Luis SUAREZ (Uru)	24.01.87
30	SUSO (Spa)	19.11.93
36	Samed YESIL (Ger)	25.05.94
MANAGER		
	Brendan RODGERS (NI)	26.01.73

MAN CITY

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Joe HART	19.04.87
30	Costel PANTILIMON (Rom)	01.02.87
29	Richard WRIGHT	05.11.77
DEFENDERS		
22	Gael CLICHY (Fra)	26.07.85
13	Aleksandar KOLAROV (Ser)	10.11.85
4	Vincent KOMPANY (Blg)	10.04.86
6	Joleon LESCOTT	16.08.82
3	MAICON (Bra)	26.07.81
33	Matija NASTASIC (Ser)	28.03.93
2	Micah RICHARDS	24.06.88
28	Kolo TOURE (IvC)	19.03.81
5	Pablo ZABALETA (Arg)	16.01.85
MIDFIELDERS		
18	Gareth BARRY	23.02.81
14	Javi GARCIA (Spa)	08.02.87
7	James MILNER	04.01.86
8	Samir NASRI (Fra)	26.06.87
62	Abdul RAZAK (IvC)	11.11.92
17	Jack RODWELL	11.03.91
21	David SILVA (Spa)	08.01.86
11	Scott SINCLAIR	25.03.89
42	Yaya TOURE (IvC)	13.05.83
FORWARDS		
16	Sergio AGUERO (Arg)	02.06.88
45	Mario BALOTELLI (Ita)	12.08.90
10	Edin DZEKO (Bos)	17.03.86
60	John GUIDETTI (Swe)	15.04.92
43	Alex NIMELY	11.05.91
32	Carlos TEVEZ (Arg)	05.02.84
MANAGER		
	Roberto MANCINI (Ita)	27.11.64

MAN UNITED

GOALKEEPERS		
1	David DE GEA (Spa)	07.11.90
50	Sam JOHNSTONE	25.03.93
13	Anders LINDEGAARD (Den)	13.04.84
DEFENDERS		
28	Alexander BUTTNER (Hol)	11.02.89
6	Jonny EVANS (NI)	02.01.88
3	Patrice EVRA (Fra)	15.05.81
5	Rio FERDINAND	07.11.78
4	Phil JONES	21.02.92
2	RAFAEL (Bra)	09.07.90
12	Chris SMALLING	22.11.89
15	Nemanja VIDIC (Ser)	21.10.81
MIDFIELDERS		
8	ANDERSON (Bra)	13.04.88
16	Michael CARRICK	28.07.81
23	Tom CLEVERLEY	12.08.89
24	Darren FLETCHER (Sco)	01.02.84
11	Ryan GIGGS (Wal)	29.11.73
26	Shinji KAGAWA (Jap)	17.03.89
17	NANI (Por)	17.11.86
25	Nick POWELL	23.03.94
22	Paul SCHOLES	16.11.74
7	Antonio VALENCIA (Ecu)	04.08.85
18	Ashley YOUNG	09.07.85
FORWARDS		
33	BEBE (Por)	12.07.90
21	Angelo HENRIQUEZ (Chl)	13.04.94
14	Javier HERNANDEZ (Mex)	01.06.88
27	Federico MACHEDA (Ita)	22.08.91
10	Wayne ROONEY	24.10.85
20	Robin VAN PERSIE (Hol)	06.08.83
19	Danny WELBECK	26.11.90
MANAGER		
	Alex FERGUSON (Sco)	31.12.41

NEWCASTLE UTD

GOALKEEPERS		
21	Rob ELLIOT (RoI)	30.04.86
37	Steve HARPER	14.03.75
1	Tim KRUL (Hol)	03.04.88
DEFENDERS		
8	Vurnon ANITA (Hol)	04.04.89
2	Fabrizio COLOCCINI (Arg)	22.01.82
33	Curtis GOOD (Aus)	23.03.93
14	James PERCH	28.09.85
3	Davide SANTON (Ita)	02.01.91
5	Danny SIMPSON	04.01.87
34	James TAVERNIER	31.10.91
16	Ryan TAYLOR	19.08.84
27	Steven TAYLOR	23.01.86
6	Michael WILLIAMSON	08.11.83
MIDFIELDERS		
39	Mehdi ABEID (Alg)	06.08.92
17	Romain AMALFITANO (Fra)	27.08.89
20	Gael BIGIRIMANA (Brd)	22.10.93
4	Yohan CABAYE (Fra)	14.01.86
31	Shane FERGUSON (NI)	12.07.91
15	Dan GOSLING	02.02.90
18	Jonas GUTIERREZ (Arg)	05.07.82
22	Sylvain MARVEAUX (Fra)	15.04.86
24	Cheik TIOTE (IvC)	21.06.86
29	Haris VUCKIC (Sln)	21.08.92
FORWARDS		
28	Sammy AMEOBI	01.05.92
23	Shola AMEOBI (Nga)	12.10.81
19	Demba BA (Sen)	25.05.85
10	Hatem BEN ARFA (Fra)	07.03.87
49	Adam CAMPBELL	01.01.95
9	Papiss CISSE (Sen)	03.06.85
25	Gabriel OBERTAN (Fra)	26.02.89
30	Nile RANGER	11.04.91
MANAGER		
	Alan PARDEW	18.07.61

NORWICH CITY

GOALKEEPERS		
28	Mark BUNN	16.11.84
13	Declan RUDD	16.01.91
1	John RUDDY	24.10.86
31	Jed STEER	23.09.92
DEFENDERS		
20	Leon BARNETT	30.11.85
5	Sebastien BASSONG (Cam)	09.07.86
24	Ryan BENNETT	06.03.90
18	Javier GARRIDO (Spa)	15.03.85
2	Russell MARTIN (Sco)	04.01.86
23	Marc TIERNEY	23.08.85
6	Michael TURNER	09.11.83
22	Elliott WARD	19.01.85
3	Steven WHITTAKER (Sco)	16.06.84
MIDFIELDERS		
17	Elliott BENNETT	18.12.88
21	Jacob BUTTERFIELD	10.06.90
15	David FOX	13.12.83
14	Wes HOOLAHAN (RoI)	10.08.83
8	Jonathan HOWSON	21.05.88
4	Bradley JOHNSON	28.04.87
26	Simon LAPPIN (Sco)	25.01.83
7	Robert SNODGRASS (Sco)	07.09.87
11	Andrew SURMAN	20.08.86
27	Alexander TETTEY (Nor)	04.04.86
FORWARDS		
9	Grant HOLT	12.04.81
10	Simeon JACKSON (Can)	28.03.87
37	Harry KANE	28.07.93
25	Chris MARTIN	04.11.88
16	Steve MORISON (Wal)	29.08.83
12	Anthony PILKINGTON (RoI)	06.06.88
MANAGER		
	Chris HUGHTON	11.12.58

QPR

GOALKEEPERS		
24	Radek CERNY (CzR)	18.02.74
33	Julio CESAR (Bra)	03.09.79
1	Robert GREEN	18.01.80
DEFENDERS		
19	Jose BOSINGWA (Por)	24.08.82
28	Max EHMER (Ger)	03.02.92
20	FABIO (Bra)	09.07.90
5	Anton FERDINAND	18.02.85
27	Michael HARRIMAN (Rol)	23.10.92
6	Clint HILL	19.10.78
17	Ryan NELSEN (NZ)	18.10.77
15	Nedum ONUOHA	12.11.86
3	Armand TRAORE (Sen)	08.10.89
MIDFIELDERS		
4	Shaun DERRY	06.12.77
2	Samba DIAKITE (Mli)	24.01.89
29	Michael DOUGHTY (Wal)	20.11.92
18	Kieron DYER	29.12.78
22	Hogan EPHRAIM	31.03.88
32	Alejandro FAURLIN (Arg)	09.08.86
14	Esteban GRANERO (Spa)	02.07.87
40	Stephane MBIA (Cam)	20.05.86
7	PARK Ji-sung (SKo)	25.02.81
10	Adel TAARABT (Mor)	24.05.89
11	Shaun WRIGHT-PHILLIPS	25.10.81
FORWARDS		
9	Djibril CISSE (Fra)	12.08.81
23	Junior HOILETT (Can)	05.06.90
8	Andy JOHNSON	10.02.81
12	Jamie MACKIE (Sco)	22.09.85
25	Bobby ZAMORA	16.01.81
MANAGER		
	Mark HUGHES (Wal)	01.11.63

READING

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Adam FEDERICI (Aus)	31.01.85
21	Alex McCARTHY	03.12.89
41	Stuart TAYLOR	28.11.80
DEFENDERS		
24	Shaun CUMMINGS	25.02.89
17	Kaspars GORKSS (Lat)	06.11.81
26	Brynjar GUNNARSSON (Ice)	16.10.75
2	Chris GUNTER (Wal)	21.07.89
23	Ian HARTE (Rol)	31.08.77
6	Adrian MARIAPPA	03.10.86
15	Sean MORRISON	08.01.91
5	Alex PEARCE (Sco)	09.11.88
3	Nicky SHOREY	19.02.81
MIDFIELDERS		
20	Danny GUTHRIE	18.04.87
4	Jem KARACAN (Tur)	21.02.89
14	Jimmy KEBE (Mli)	19.01.84
8	Mikele LEIGERTWOOD (A&B)	12.11.82
11	Jobi McANUFF (Jam)	09.11.81
12	Garath McCLEARY	15.05.87
16	Jay TABB (Rol)	21.02.84
FORWARDS		
18	Simon CHURCH (Wal)	10.12.88
10	Noel HUNT (Rol)	26.12.82
9	Adam LE FONDRE	02.12.86
7	Pavel POGREBNYAK (Rus)	08.11.83
33	Jason ROBERTS (Grn)	25.01.78
19	Hal ROBSON-KANU (Wal)	21.05.89
MANAGER		
	Brian McDERMOTT	08.04.61

SOUTHAMPTON

GOALKEEPERS		
31	Artur BORUC (Pol)	20.02.80
1	Kelvin DAVIS	29.09.76
12	Paulo GAZZANIGA (Arg)	02.01.92
DEFENDERS		
32	Danny BUTTERFIELD	21.11.79
2	Nathaniel CLYNE	05.04.91
6	Jose FONTE (Por)	22.12.83
13	Danny FOX (Sco)	29.05.86
5	Jos HOOIVELD (Hol)	22.04.83
29	Ben REEVES	19.11.91
22	Frazer RICHARDSON	29.10.82
25	Daniel SEABORNE	05.03.87
23	Luke SHAW	12.07.95
26	Jack STEPHENS	27.01.94
3	Maya YOSHIDA (Jap)	24.08.88
MIDFIELDERS		
27	Richard CHAPLOW	02.02.85
28	Calum CHAMBERS	20.01.95
18	Jack CORK	25.06.89
8	Steven DAVIS (NI)	01.01.85
21	Guilherme DO PRADO (Bra)	31.12.81
20	Adam LALLANA	10.05.88
42	Jason PUNCHEON	26.06.86
10	Gaston RAMIREZ (Uru)	02.12.90
4	Morgan SCHNEIDERLIN (Fra)	08.11.89
16	James WARD-PROWSE	01.11.94
FORWARDS		
33	Steve DE RIDDER (Blg)	25.02.87
35	Sam HOSKINS	04.02.93
7	Rickie LAMBERT	16.02.82
19	Tadanari LEE (Jap)	19.12.85
24	Emmanuel MAYUKA (Zam)	21.11.90
9	Jay RODRIGUEZ	29.07.89
MANAGER		
	Nigel ADKINS	11.03.65

STOKE CITY

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Asmir BEGOVIC (Bos)	20.06.87
27	Carlo NASH	13.09.73
29	Thomas SORENSEN (Den)	12.06.76
DEFENDERS		
2	Geoff CAMERON (USA)	11.07.85
4	Robert HUTH (Ger)	18.08.84
17	Ryan SHAWCROSS	04.10.87
30	Ryan SHOTTON	30.09.88
20	Matthew UPSON	18.04.79
28	Andy WILKINSON	06.08.84
12	Marc WILSON (Rol)	17.08.87
MIDFIELDERS		
16	Charlie ADAM (Sco)	10.12.85
32	Diego ARISMENDI (Uru)	25.01.88
24	Rory DELAP (Rol)	06.07.76
13	Maurice EDU (USA)	18.04.86
26	Matthew ETHERINGTON	14.08.81
21	Michael KIGHTLY	24.01.86
14	Jamie NESS (Sco)	02.03.91
15	Steven N'ZONZI (Fra)	15.12.88
8	Wilson PALACIOS (Hon)	29.07.84
7	Jermaine PENNANT	15.01.83
6	Glenn WHELAN (Rol)	13.01.84
18	Dean WHITEHEAD	12.01.82
FORWARDS		
25	Peter CROUCH	30.01.81
33	Cameron JEROME	14.08.86
9	Kenwyne JONES (T&T)	05.10.84
10	Michael OWEN	14.12.79
11	Mamady SIDIBE (Mli)	18.12.79
19	Jon WALTERS (Rol)	20.09.83
MANAGER		
	Tony PULIS (Wal)	16.01.58

SUNDERLAND

GOALKEEPERS		
22	Simon MIGNOLET (Blg)	06.08.88
20	Keiren WESTWOOD (Rol)	23.10.84
DEFENDERS		
34	Blair ADAMS	08.09.91
2	Phillip BARDSLEY (Sco)	28.06.85
19	Titus BRAMBLE	21.07.81
5	Wes BROWN	13.10.79
24	Carlos CUELLAR (Spa)	23.08.81
42	John EGAN (Rol)	20.10.92
12	Matthew KILGALLON	08.01.84
16	John O'SHEA (Rol)	30.04.81
3	Danny ROSE	02.07.90
MIDFIELDERS		
6	Lee CATTERMOLE	21.03.88
14	Jack COLBACK	24.10.89
8	Craig GARDNER	25.11.86
21	Adam JOHNSON	14.07.87
7	Sebastian LARSSON (Swe)	06.06.85
23	James McCLEAN (Rol)	22.04.89
18	David MEYLER (Rol)	29.05.89
28	Stephane SESSEGNON (Ben)	01.06.84
15	David VAUGHAN (Wal)	18.02.83
FORWARDS		
9	Fraizer CAMPBELL	13.09.87
26	Steven FLETCHER (Sco)	26.03.87
17	JI Dong-won (SKo)	28.05.91
33	Ryan NOBLE	06.11.91
25	Louis SAHA (Fra)	08.08.78
10	Connor WICKHAM	31.03.93
MANAGER		
	Martin O'NEILL (NI)	01.03.52

SWANSEA CITY

GOALKEEPERS		
13	David CORNELL (Wal)	28.03.91
25	Gerhard TREMMEL (Ger)	16.11.78
1	Michel VORM (Hol)	20.10.83
DEFENDERS		
35	Daniel ALFEI (Wal)	23.02.92
2	Kyle BARTLEY	22.05.91
4	CHICO Flores (Spa)	06.03.87
33	Ben DAVIES (Wal)	24.04.93
16	Garry MONK	06.03.79
28	Curtis OBENG	14.02.89
22	Angel RANGEL (Spa)	28.10.82
23	Darnel SITU (Fra)	18.03.92
5	Alan TATE	02.09.82
3	Neil TAYLOR (Wal)	07.02.89
21	Dwight TIENDALLI (Hol)	21.10.85
6	Ashley WILLIAMS (Wal)	23.08.84
MIDFIELDERS		
26	Kemy AGUSTIEN	02.08.86
7	Leon BRITTON	16.09.82
20	Jonathan DE GUZMAN (Hol)	13.09.87
12	Nathan DYER	29.11.87
27	Mark GOWER	05.10.78
11	Pablo HERNANDEZ (Spa)	11.04.85
24	KI Sung-yong (SKo)	24.01.89
31	Lee LUCAS (Wal)	10.06.92
9	MICHU (Spa)	21.03.86
29	Ashley RICHARDS (Wal)	12.04.91
15	Wayne ROUTLEDGE	07.01.85
FORWARDS		
41	Rory DONNELLY (NI)	18.02.92
10	Danny GRAHAM	12.08.85
19	Luke MOORE	13.02.86
42	Jamie PROCTOR	25.03.92
17	Itay SHECHTER (Isr)	22.02.87
MANAGER		
	Michael LAUDRUP (Den)	15.06.64

TOTTENHAM H

GOALKEEPERS		
23	Carlo CUDICINI (Ita)	06.09.73
24	Brad FRIEDEL (USA)	18.05.71
1	Heurelho GOMES (Bra)	15.02.81
25	Hugo LLORIS (Fra)	26.12.86
DEFENDERS		
32	Benoit ASSOU-EKOTTO (Cam)	24.03.84
33	Steven CAULKER	29.12.91
20	Michael DAWSON	18.11.83
13	William GALLAS (Fra)	17.08.77
4	Younes KABOUL (Fra)	04.01.86
16	Kyle NAUGHTON	11.11.88
39	Adam SMITH	29.04.91
5	Jan VERTONGHEN (Blg)	24.04.87
28	Kyle WALKER	28.05.90
MIDFIELDERS		
11	Gareth BALE (Wal)	16.07.89
46	Tommy CARROLL	28.05.92
19	Mousa DEMBELE (Blg)	17.07.87
2	Clint DEMPSEY (USA)	09.03.83
6	Tom HUDDLESTONE	28.12.86
21	Jermaine JENAS	18.02.83
7	Aaron LENNON	16.04.87
29	Jake LIVERMORE	14.11.89
8	Scott PARKER	13.10.80
30	SANDRO (Bra)	15.03.89
22	Gylfi SIGURDSSON (Ice)	09.09.89
31	Andros TOWNSEND	16.07.91
FORWARDS		
10	Emmanuel ADEBAYOR (Tog)	26.02.84
18	Jermain DEFOE	07.10.82
MANAGER		
	Andre VILLAS-BOAS (Por)	17.10.77

WEST BROM

GOALKEEPERS		
19	Luke DANIELS	05.01.88
1	Ben FOSTER	03.04.83
13	Boaz MYHILL (Wal)	09.11.82
DEFENDERS		
25	Craig DAWSON	06.05.90
26	James HURST	31.01.92
18	Gonzalo JARA (Chl)	29.08.85
28	Billy JONES	24.03.87
23	Gareth McAULEY (NI)	05.12.79
3	Jonas OLSSON (Swe)	10.03.83
4	Goran POPOV (Mac)	02.10.84
6	Liam RIDGEWELL	21.07.84
30	Gabriel TAMAS (Rom)	09.11.83
MIDFIELDERS		
16	Scott ALLAN (Sco)	28.11.91
37	Kayelden BROWN (Wal)	15.04.92
11	Chris BRUNT (NI)	14.12.84
17	Graham DORRANS (Sco)	05.05.87
10	Yassine EL GHANASSY (Mor)	12.07.90
22	Zoltan GERA (Hun)	22.04.79
27	Sam MANTOM	20.02.92
7	James MORRISON (Sco)	25.05.86
21	Youssuf MULUMBU (DRC)	25.01.87
2	Steven REID (Rol)	10.03.81
14	Jerome THOMAS	23.03.83
15	George THORNE	04.01.93
5	Claudio YACOB (Arg)	18.07.87
FORWARDS		
38	Saido BERAHINO	04.08.93
32	Marc-Antoine FORTUNE (Fra)	02.07.81
9	Shane LONG (Rol)	22.01.87
20	Romelu LUKAKU (Blg)	13.05.93
24	Peter ODEMWINGIE (Nga)	15.07.81
8	Markus ROSENBERG (Swe)	27.09.82
MANAGER		
	Steve CLARKE (Sco)	29.08.63

WEST HAM UTD

GOALKEEPERS		
13	Stephen HENDERSON (Rol)	02.05.88
22	Jussi JAASKELAINEN (Fin)	19.04.75
30	Raphael SPIEGEL (Swi)	19.12.92
DEFENDERS		
19	James COLLINS (Wal)	23.08.83
20	Guy DEMEL (IvC)	13.06.81
41	Callum DRIVER	23.10.92
3	George McCARTNEY (NI)	29.04.81
17	Joey O'BRIEN (Rol)	17.02.86
33	Danny POTTS	13.04.94
2	Winston REID (NZ)	03.07.88
27	Jordan SPENCE	24.05.90
5	James TOMKINS	29.03.89
MIDFIELDERS		
15	Yossi BENAYOUN (Isr)	05.05.80
10	Jack COLLISON (Wal)	02.10.88
21	Mohamed DIAME (Sen)	14.06.87
23	Alou DIARRA (Fra)	15.07.81
40	Matthias FANIMO	28.01.94
7	Matt JARVIS	22.05.86
42	George MONCUR	18.08.93
16	Mark NOBLE	08.05.87
4	Kevin NOLAN	24.06.82
32	Gary O'NEIL	18.05.83
14	Matt TAYLOR	27.11.81
FORWARDS		
8	Andy CARROLL	06.01.89
9	Carlton COLE	12.10.83
46	Robert HALL	20.10.93
11	Modibo MAIGA (Mli)	03.09.86
12	Ricardo VAZ TE (Por)	01.10.86
MANAGER		
	Sam ALLARDYCE	19.10.54

WIGAN ATHLETIC

GOALKEEPERS		
26	Ali AL HABSI (Oma)	30.12.81
12	Mike POLLITT	29.02.72
DEFENDERS		
3	Antolin ALCARAZ (Par)	30.07.82
17	Emmerson BOYCE (Bar)	24.09.79
5	Gary CALDWELL (Sco)	12.04.82
31	Maynor FIGUEROA (Hon)	02.05.83
24	Adrian LOPEZ (Spa)	25.02.87
27	Jordan MUSTOE	28.01.91
21	Ivan RAMIS (Spa)	25.10.84
23	Ronnie STAM (Hol)	18.06.84
MIDFIELDERS		
22	Jean BEAUSEJOUR (Chl)	01.06.84
7	Albert CRUSAT (Spa)	13.05.82
20	Fraser FYVIE (Sco)	27.03.93
14	Jordi GOMEZ (Spa)	24.05.85
6	David JONES	04.11.84
30	Rob KIERNAN	13.01.91
16	James McARTHUR (Sco)	07.10.87
4	James McCARTHY (Rol)	12.11.90
28	Daniel REDMOND	02.03.91
8	Ben WATSON	09.07.85
FORWARDS		
19	Mauro BOSELLI (Arg)	22.05.85
9	Franco DI SANTO (Arg)	07.04.89
2	Arouna KONE (IvC)	11.11.83
10	Shaun MALONEY (Sco)	24.01.83
15	Callum McMANAMAN	25.04.91
32	Ryo MIYAICHI (Jap)	14.12.92
MANAGER		
	Roberto MARTINEZ (Spa)	13.07.73

ITALY SERIE A 2012-13

ATALANTA

GOALKEEPERS	
47 Andrea CONSIGLI	27.01.87
78 Giorgio FREZZOLINI	21.01.76
16 Ciro POLITO	12.04.79
DEFENDERS	
6 Gianpaolo BELLINI	27.03.80
28 Davide BRIVIO	17.03.88
4 Daniele CAPELLI	20.06.86
32 Michele FERRI	29.05.81
3 Stefano LUCCHINI	02.10.80
5 Thomas MANFREDINI	27.05.80
25 Carlos MATHEU (Arg)	13.05.85
13 Federico PELUSO	20.01.84
2 Guglielmo STENDARDO	06.05.81
MIDFIELDERS	
88 Davide BIONDINI	24.01.83
10 Giacomo BONAVENTURA	22.08.89
17 Carlos CARMONA (Chl)	21.02.87
44 Riccardo CAZZOLA	10.08.85
21 Luca CIGARINI	20.06.86
11 Maximiliano MORALEZ (Arg)	27.02.87
94 Antonio PALMA	03.01.94
79 Ferreira PINTO (Bra)	10.12.79
8 Ivan RADOVANOVIC (Ser)	29.08.88
77 Cristian RAIMONDI	30.04.81
7 Ezequiel SCHELOTTO	23.05.89
23 Matteo SCOZZARELLA	05.06.88
FORWARDS	
91 Giuseppe DE LUCA	22.06.91
19 German DENIS (Arg)	10.09.81
89 Guido MARILUNGO	09.08.89
99 Facundo PARRA (Arg)	15.06.85
9 James TROISI (Aus)	03.07.88
COACH	
Stefano COLANTUONO	23.10.62

BOLOGNA

GOALKEEPERS	
25 Federico AGLIARDI	11.02.83
1 Gianluca CURCI	12.07.85
22 Filippo LOMBARDI	22.04.90
32 Dejan STOJANOVIC (Mac)	19.07.93
DEFENDERS	
20 Mathias ABERO (Uru)	09.04.90
5 Mikael ANTONSSON (Swe)	31.05.81
45 Roger CARVALHO (Bra)	10.12.86
21 Nicolo CHERUBIN	02.12.86
3 Archimede MORLEO	26.06.83
11 Marco MOTTA	14.05.86
14 Cesare NATALI	05.04.79
90 Daniele PORTANOVA	17.12.78
43 Frederik SORENSEN (Den)	14.04.92
MIDFIELDERS	
8 Gyorgy GARICS (Aut)	08.03.84
17 Tiberio GUARENTE	01.11.85
33 Panagiotis KONE (Gre)	26.07.87
4 Rene KRHIN (Sln)	21.05.90
77 Christian PASQUATO	20.07.89
30 Michele PAZIENZA (Ita)	05.08.82
15 Diego PEREZ (Uru)	18.05.80
12 Andrea PISANU	07.01.82
13 Nico PULZETTI	13.02.84
28 Marti RIVEROLA (Spa)	26.01.91
6 Saphir TAIDER (Fra)	29.02.92
FORWARDS	
9 Robert ACQUAFRESCA	11.09.87
23 Alessandro DIAMANTI	02.05.83
18 Manolo GABBIADINI	26.11.91
10 Alberto GILARDINO	05.07.82
7 Henry GIMENEZ (Uru)	13.03.86
24 Daniele PAPONI	16.04.88
19 Federico RODRIGUEZ (Uru)	03.04.91
COACH	
Stefano PIOLI	20.10.65

CAGLIARI

GOALKEEPERS	
1 Michael AGAZZI	03.07.84
26 Riccardo ANEDDA	08.07.93
25 Vlada AVRAMOV (Ser)	05.04.79
DEFENDERS	
3 Lorenzo ARIAUDO	11.06.89
13 Davide ASTORI	07.01.87
2 Vincenzo CAMILLERI	06.03.92
34 Dario DEL FABRO	24.03.95
16 Sebastian ERIKSSON (Swe)	31.01.89
29 Nicola MURRU	16.12.94
24 Gabriele PERICO	11.03.84
14 Francesco PISANO	29.04.86
15 Luca ROSSETTINI	09.05.85
MIDFIELDERS	
8 Danilo AVELAR (Bra)	09.06.89
32 Federico CASARINI	07.08.89
5 Daniele CONTI	09.01.79
7 Andrea COSSU	30.05.80
21 Daniele DESSENA	10.05.87
20 Albin EKDAL (Swe)	28.07.89
23 Victor IBARBO (Col)	19.05.90
4 Radja NAINGGOLAN (Blg)	04.05.88
33 Marco PIREDDA	05.04.94
FORWARDS	
9 Joaquin LARRIVEY (Arg)	20.08.84
18 NENE (Bra)	28.07.83
19 Thiago RIBEIRO (Bra)	24.02.86
27 Marco SAU	03.12.87
51 Mauricio PINILLA (Chl)	04.02.84
COACH	
Ivo PULGA	20.06.64

CATANIA

GOALKEEPERS	
21 Mariano ANDUJAR (Arg)	30.07.83
1 Alberto FRISON	22.01.88
34 Giuseppe MESSINA	12.02.93
29 Pietro TERRACCIANO	08.03.90
DEFENDERS	
22 Pablo ALVAREZ (Arg)	17.04.84
18 Blazej AUGUSTYN (Pol)	26.01.88
14 Giuseppe BELLUSCI	21.08.89
33 Ciro CAPUANO	10.07.81
6 Nicola LEGROTTAGLIE	20.10.76
12 Giovanni MARCHESE	17.10.84
2 Alessandro POTENZA	08.03.84
5 Alexis ROLIN (Uru)	28.05.88
3 Nicolas SPOLLI (Arg)	20.02.83
MIDFIELDERS	
4 Sergio ALMIRON (Arg)	07.11.80
28 Pablo BARRIENTOS (Arg)	17.01.85
27 Marco BIAGIANTI	19.04.84
19 Lucas CASTRO (Arg)	09.04.89
17 Alejandro GOMEZ (Arg)	15.02.88
13 Mariano IZCO (Arg)	13.03.83
26 KEKO (Spa)	28.12.91
10 Francesco LODI	23.03.84
20 Mario PAGLIALUNGA (Arg)	29.10.88
24 Adrian RICCHIUTI (Arg)	30.06.78
30 Amidu SALIFU (Gha)	20.09.92
8 Fabio SCIACCA	16.05.89
FORWARDS	
9 Gonzalo BERGESSIO (Arg)	20.07.84
35 Souleymane DOUKARA (Sen)	29.09.91
15 Takayuki MORIMOTO (Jap)	07.05.88
COACH	
Rolando MARAN	14.07.63

CHIEVO

GOALKEEPERS	
1 Christian PUGGIONI	17.01.81
54 Stefano SORRENTINO	28.03.79
18 Lorenzo SQUIZZI	27.06.74
23 Sergio VIOTTI	04.03.90
DEFENDERS	
3 Marco ANDREOLLI	10.06.86
12 Bostjan CESAR (Sln)	09.07.82
2 Dario DAINELLI	06.09.79
93 Boukary DRAME (Sen)	22.07.85
26 Pavol FARKAS (Slk)	27.03.85
21 Nicolas FREY (Fra)	06.03.84
13 Bojan JOKIC (Sln)	17.05.86
33 Paul PAPP (Rom)	11.11.89
20 Gennaro SARDO	03.05.79
MIDFIELDERS	
14 Isaac COFIE (Gha)	05.04.91
8 Rinaldo CRUZADO (Per)	21.09.84
22 Francesco DETTORI	02.03.83
5 Roberto GUANA	21.01.81
56 Perparim HETEMAJ (Fin)	12.12.86
10 LUCIANO (Bra)	03.12.75
16 Luca RIGONI	07.12.84
6 Marco RIGONI	05.01.80
39 Adrian STOIAN (Rom)	11.02.91
25 Kamil VACEK (CzR)	18.05.87
FORWARDS	
17 David DI MICHELE	06.01.76
9 Davide MOSCARDELLI	03.02.80
11 Mamadou SAMASSA (Mli)	01.05.86
43 Alberto PALOSCHI	04.01.90
31 Sergio PELLISSIER	12.04.79
77 Cyril THEREAU (Fra)	24.04.83
COACH	
Eugenio CORINI	30.07.70

FIORENTINA

GOALKEEPERS	
41 Luca LEZZERINI	24.03.95
12 Cristiano LUPATELLI	21.06.78
89 NETO (Bra)	19.07.89
1 Emiliano VIVIANO	01.12.85
DEFENDERS	
38 Nortey ASHONG (Gha)	17.11.94
31 Michele CAMPORESE	19.05.92
16 Mattia CASSANI	26.08.83
3 Ahmed HEGAZY (Egy)	25.01.91
23 Manuel PASQUAL	13.03.82
2 Gonzalo RODRIGUEZ (Arg)	10.04.84
92 ROMULO (Bra)	22.05.87
4 Facundo RONCAGLIA (Arg)	10.02.87
15 Stefan SAVIC (Mne)	08.01.91
40 Nenad TOMOVIC (Ser)	30.08.87
MIDFIELDERS	
10 Alberto AQUILANI	07.07.84
28 Leonardo CAPEZZI	28.03.95
11 Juan CUADRADO (Col)	26.05.88
18 Francesco DELLA ROCCA	14.09.87
14 Matias FERNANDEZ (Chl)	15.05.86
22 Adem LJAJIC (Ser)	29.09.91
19 Cristian LLAMA (Arg)	26.06.86
21 Giulio MIGLIACCIO	23.06.81
5 Ruben OLIVERA (Uru)	04.05.83
7 David PIZARRO (Chl)	11.09.79
20 Borja VALERO (Spa)	21.01.85
FORWARDS	
9 Mounir EL HAMDAOUI (Hol)	14.07.84
8 Stevan JOVETIC (Mne)	02.11.89
17 Haris SEFEROVIC (Swi)	22.02.92
30 Luca TONI	26.05.77
COACH	
Vincenzo MONTELLA	18.06.74

GENOA

GOALKEEPERS	
32 Antonio DONNARUMMA	07.07.90
1 Sebastien FREY (Fra)	16.03.80
63 Roberto STILLO (Can)	15.03.91
30 Alexandros TZORVAS (Gre)	12.08.82
DEFENDERS	
13 Luca ANTONELLI	11.02.87
3 Cesare BOVO	14.01.83
21 Michele CANINI	05.06.85
4 Damiano FERRONETTI	01.11.84
5 Andreas GRANQVIST (Swe)	16.04.85
24 Emiliano MORETTI	11.06.81
31 Mario SAMPIRISI	31.10.92
MIDFIELDERS	
89 ANSELMO (Bra)	20.02.89
91 Andrea BERTOLACCI	11.01.91
19 Cristobal JORQUERA (Chl)	06.04.88
33 Juraj KUCKA (Slk)	26.02.87
10 Alexander MERKEL (Ger)	22.02.92
7 Marco ROSSI	01.04.78
14 Felipe SEYMOUR (Chl)	23.07.87
28 Daniel TOZSER (Hun)	12.05.85
8 Juan Manuel VARGAS (Per)	05.10.83
FORWARDS	
22 Marco BORRIELLO	18.06.82
17 Ciro IMMOBILE	20.02.90
11 Bosko JANKOVIC (Ser)	01.03.84
9 Leonardo MELAZZI (Uru)	04.02.91
18 Giammario PISCITELLA	24.03.93
COACH	
Luigi DE CANIO	26.09.57

INTERNAZIONALE

GOALKEEPERS	
27 Vid BELEC (Sln)	06.06.90
12 Luca CASTELLAZZI	19.07.75
1 Samir HANDANOVIC (Sln)	14.07.84
DEFENDERS	
44 Matteo BIANCHETTI	17.03.93
26 Christian CHIVU (Rom)	26.10.80
42 JONATHAN (Bra)	27.02.86
40 JUAN (Bra)	10.06.91
33 Ibrahima MBAYE (Sen)	19.11.94
55 Yuto NAGATOMO (Jap)	12.09.86
23 Andrea RANOCCHIA	16.02.88
25 Walter SAMUEL (Arg)	23.03.78
6 Matias SILVESTRE (Arg)	25.09.84
4 Javier ZANETTI (Arg)	10.08.73
MIDFIELDERS	
11 Ricardo ALVAREZ (Arg)	12.04.88
24 Marco BENASSI	05.05.94
19 Esteban CAMBIASSO (Arg)	18.08.80
7 Philippe COUTINHO (Bra)	12.06.92
46 Yago DEL PIERO (Bra)	14.01.94
41 Alfred DUNCAN (Gha)	10.03.93
21 Walter GARGANO (Uru)	23.07.84
14 Fredy GUARIN (Col)	30.06.86
17 McDonald MARIGA (Ken)	04.04.87
16 Gaby MUDINGAYI (Blg)	01.10.81
20 Joel OBI (Nga)	22.05.91
31 Alvaro PEREIRA (Uru)	28.11.85
10 Wesley SNEIJDER (Hol)	09.06.84
5 Dejan STANKOVIC (Ser)	11.09.78
FORWARDS	
99 Antonio CASSANO	12.07.82
88 Marko LIVAJA (Cro)	26.08.93
22 Diego MILITO (Arg)	12.06.79
8 Rodrigo PALACIO (Arg)	05.02.82
COACH	
Andrea STRAMACCIONI	09.01.76

JUVENTUS

GOALKEEPERS	
31 Laurentiu BRANESCU (Rom)	30.03.94
1 Gianluigi BUFFON	28.01.78
34 RUBINHO (Bra)	04.08.82
30 Marco STORARI	07.01.77
DEFENDERS	
15 Andrea BARZAGLI	08.05.81
19 Leonardo BONUCCI	01.05.87
4 Martin CACERES (Uru)	07.04.87
3 Giorgio CHIELLINI	14.08.84
33 Mauricio ISLA (Chl)	12.06.88
26 Stephan LICHTSTEINER (Swi)	16.01.84
2 LUCIO (Bra)	08.05.78
MIDFIELDERS	
22 Kwadwo ASAMOAH (Gha)	09.12.88
11 Paolo DE CEGLIE	17.09.86
24 Emanuele GIACCHERINI	05.05.85
8 Claudio MARCHISIO	19.01.86
39 Luca MARRONE	28.03.90
20 Simone PADOIN	18.03.84
7 Simone PEPE	30.08.83
21 Andrea PIRLO	19.05.79
6 Paul POGBA (Fra)	15.03.93
23 Arturo VIDAL (Chl)	22.05.87
FORWARDS	
17 Nicklas BENDTNER (Den)	16.01.88
12 Sebastian GIOVINCO	26.01.87
32 Alessandro MATRI	15.08.84
27 Fabio QUAGLIARELLA	31.01.83
9 Mirko VUCINIC (Mne)	01.10.83
COACH	
Antonio CONTE	31.07.69

LAZIO

GOALKEEPERS	
1 Albano BIZZARRI (Arg)	09.11.77
84 Juan Pablo CARRIZO (Arg)	06.05.84
22 Federico MARCHETTI	07.02.83
DEFENDERS	
20 Giuseppe BIAVA	08.05.77
39 Luis Pedro CAVANDA (Blg)	02.01.90
2 Michael CIANI (Fra)	06.04.84
21 Mobido DIAKHITE (Fra)	02.03.87
3 Andre DIAS (Bra)	15.05.79
29 Abdoulay KONKO (Fra)	09.03.84
26 Stefan RADU (Rom)	22.10.86
5 Lionel SCALONI (Arg)	16.05.78
33 Marius STANKEVICIUS (Lit)	15.07.81
78 Luciano ZAURI	20.01.78
MIDFIELDERS	
32 Cristian BROCCHI	30.01.76
27 Lorik CANA (Alb)	27.07.83
87 Antonio CANDREVA	28.02.87
7 EDERSON (Bra)	13.01.86
15 Alvaro GONZALEZ (Uru)	29.10.84
8 HERNANES (Bra)	29.05.85
24 Cristian LEDESMA	24.09.82
19 Senad LULIC (Bos)	18.01.86
6 Stefano MAURI	08.01.80
23 Ogenyi ONAZI (Nga)	25.12.92
FORWARDS	
99 Sergio FLOCCARI	12.11.81
11 Miroslav KLOSE (Ger)	09.06.78
18 Libor KOZAK (CzR)	30.05.89
9 Tommaso ROCCHI	19.09.77
25 Antonio ROZZI	28.05.94
10 Mauro ZARATE (Arg)	18.03.87
COACH	
Vladimir PETKOVIC (Bos)	15.08.63

MILAN

GOALKEEPERS	
32 Christian ABBIATI	08.07.77
1 Marco AMELIA	02.04.82
59 GABRIEL (Bra)	27.09.92
DEFENDERS	
20 Ignazio ABATE	12.11.86
13 Francesco ACERBI	10.02.88
77 Luca ANTONINI	04.02.82
25 Daniele BONERA	31.05.81
2 Mattia DE SCIGLIO	20.10.92
35 DIDAC (Spa)	09.06.89
5 Philippe MEXES (Fra)	30.03.82
76 Mario YEPES (Col)	13.01.76
17 Cristian ZAPATA (Col)	30.09.86
MIDFIELDERS	
23 Massimo AMBROSINI	29.05.77
10 Kevin-Prince BOATENG (Gha)	06.03.87
21 Kevin CONSTANT (Gui)	15.05.87
34 Nigel DE JONG (Hol)	30.11.84
92 Stephan EL SHAARAWY	27.10.92
28 Urby EMANUELSON (Hol)	16.06.86
16 Mathieu FLAMINI (Fra)	07.03.84
15 Djamel MESBAH (Alg)	09.10.84
18 Riccardo MONTOLIVO	18.01.85
4 Sulley MUNTARI (Gha)	27.07.84
8 Antonio NOCERINO	09.04.85
14 Rodney STRASSER (SLe)	30.03.90
12 Bakaye TRAORE (Mli)	06.03.85
57 Mattia VALOTI	06.09.93
FORWARDS	
22 BOJAN Krkic (Spa)	28.08.90
19 M'baye NIANG (Fra)	19.12.94
9 Alexandre PATO (Bra)	02.09.89
11 Giampaolo PAZZINI	02.08.84
7 ROBINHO (Bra)	25.01.84
COACH	
Massimiliano ALLEGRI	11.08.67

NAPOLI

GOALKEEPERS	
15 Roberto COLOMBO	24.08.75
1 Morgan DE SANCTIS	26.03.77
22 Antonio ROSATI	26.06.83
DEFENDERS	
6 Salvatore ARONICA	20.01.78
5 Miguel BRITOS (Uru)	17.07.85
14 Hugo CAMPAGNARO (Arg)	27.06.80
28 Paolo CANNAVARO	26.06.81
8 Andrea DOSSENA	11.09.81
21 Federico FERNANDEZ (Arg)	21.02.89
55 Alessandro GAMBERINI	27.08.81
2 Gianluca GRAVA	07.03.77
16 Giandomenico MESTO	25.05.82
3 Bruno UVINI (Bra)	03.06.91
18 Camilo ZUNIGA (Col)	14.12.85
MIDFIELDERS	
85 Valon BEHRAMI (Swi)	19.04.85
4 Marco DONADEL	21.04.83
20 Blerim DZEMAILI (Swi)	12.04.86
13 Omar EL KADDOURI (Blg)	21.08.90
17 Marek HAMSIK (Slk)	27.07.87
68 Gokhan INLER (Swi)	27.06.84
11 Cristian MAGGIO	11.02.82
FORWARDS	
7 Edinson CAVANI (Uru)	14.02.87
24 Lorenzo INSIGNE	04.06.91
19 Goran PANDEV (Mac)	27.07.83
9 Eduardo VARGAS (Chl)	20.11.89
COACH	
Walter MAZZARRI	01.10.61

PALERMO

GOALKEEPERS	
99 Francesco BENUSSI	15.10.81
22 Giacomo BRICHETTO	09.05.83
1 Samir UJKANI (Alb)	05.07.88
DEFENDERS	
4 Mauro CETTO (Arg)	14.04.82
29 Santiago GARCIA (Arg)	08.07.88
18 Carlos LABRIN (Chl)	02.09.90
2 Andrea MANTOVANI	22.06.84
15 Milan MILANOVIC (Ser)	31.03.91
89 Michel MORGANELLA (Swi)	17.05.89
6 Ezequiel MUNOZ (Arg)	08.10.90
31 Eros PISANO	31.03.87
25 Steve VON BERGEN (Swi)	10.06.83
MIDFIELDERS	
20 Egidio AREVALO RIOS (Uru)	01.01.82
5 Edgar BARRETO (Par)	15.07.84
14 Nicolas BERTOLO (Arg)	02.01.86
21 Franco BRIENZA	19.03.79
23 Massimo DONATI	26.03.81
17 Luigi GIORGI	19.04.87
27 Josip ILICIC (Sln)	29.01.88
28 Jasmin KURTIC (Sln)	10.01.89
7 Nicolas VIOLA	12.10.89
16 Eran ZAHAVI (Isr)	25.07.87
FORWARDS	
19 Igor BUDAN (Cro)	22.04.80
9 Paulo DYBALA (Arg)	15.11.93
11 Abel HERNANDEZ (Uru)	08.08.90
10 Fabrizio MICCOLI	27.06.79
50 Giulio SANSEVERINO	10.02.94
COACH	
Gian Piero GASPERINI	26.01.58

PARMA

GOALKEEPERS	
97 Francesco ANACOURA	01.08.94
91 Pavol BAJZA (CzR)	04.09.91
83 Antonio MIRANTE	08.07.83
1 Nicola PAVARINI	24.02.74
DEFENDERS	
28 Yohan BENALOUANE (Fra)	28.03.87
39 Ignacio FIDELEFF (Arg)	04.07.89
18 Massimo GOBBI	31.10.80
6 Alessandro LUCARELLI	22.07.77
3 Emilio MacEACHEN (Uru)	05.04.92
29 Gabriel PALETTA (Arg)	15.02.86
13 Fabiano SANTACROCE	24.08.86
5 Cristian ZACCARDO	21.12.81
MIDFIELDERS	
20 Afriyie ACQUAH (Gha)	05.01.92
8 Daniele GALLOPPA	15.05.85
32 Marco MARCHIONNI	22.07.80
4 Stefano MORRONE	26.10.78
19 Gianluca MUSACCI	01.04.87
77 Sotiris NINIS (Gre)	03.04.90
16 Marco PAROLO	25.01.85
87 Aleandro ROSI	17.05.87
FORWARDS	
11 AMAURI	03.06.80
23 Manuel ARTEAGA (Ven)	10.06.94
9 Ishak BELFODIL (Alg)	12.01.92
7 Jonathan BIABIANY (Fra)	28.04.88
88 Dorlan PABON (Col)	24.01.88
17 Raffaele PALLADINO	17.04.84
21 Nicola SANSONE	10.09.91
22 Floriano VANZO (Blg)	28.04.94
10 Jaime VALDES (Chl)	11.01.81
COACH	
Roberto DONADONI	09.09.63

PESCARA

GOALKEEPERS	
32 Ivan PELIZZOLI	18.11.80
77 Mattia PERIN	10.11.92
95 Luca SAVELLONI	16.07.95
DEFENDERS	
14 Antonio BALZANO	13.06.86
15 Antonio BOCCHETTI	11.06.80
5 Marco CAPUANO	14.10.91
23 Uros COSIC (Ser)	24.10.92
3 Alessandro CRESCENZI	25.09.91
94 Marco PERROTTA	14.02.94
6 Simone ROMAGNOLI	09.02.90
88 Christian TERLIZZI	22.11.79
2 Damiano ZANON	02.09.83
MIDFIELDERS	
55 Luca BERARDOCCO	22.01.91
8 Birkir BJARNASON (Ice)	27.05.88
26 Manuele BLASI	17.08.80
16 Gaston BRUGMAN (Uru)	07.09.92
4 Emmanuel CASCIONE	22.09.83
10 Mervan CELIK (Swe)	26.05.90
18 Giuseppe COLUCCI	24.08.80
24 Luca LULLI	22.12.91
11 Francesco MODESTO	16.02.82
20 Matti Lund NIELSEN (Den)	08.05.88
93 Juan QUINTERO (Col)	18.01.93
21 Romulo Eugenio TOGNI (Bra)	09.09.82
17 Vladimir WEISS (Slk)	30.11.89
FORWARDS	
9 Elvis ABBRUSCATO	14.04.81
99 Gianluca CAPRARI	30.07.93
19 Lucas CHIARETTI (Bra)	22.09.87
80 JONATHAS (Bra)	06.03.89
7 Danilo SODDIMO	27.09.87
22 Ante VUKUSIC (Cro)	04.06.91
COACH	
Giovanni STROPPA	24.01.68

ROMA

GOALKEEPERS	
13 Mauro GOICOECHEA (Uru)	27.03.88
1 Bogdan LOBONT (Rom)	18.01.78
24 Maarten STEKELENBURG (Hol)	22.09.82
55 Tomas SVEDKAUSKAS (Lit)	22.06.94
DEFENDERS	
42 Federico BALZARETTI	06.12.81
29 Nicolas BURDISSO (Arg)	12.04.81
5 Leandro CASTAN (Bra)	05.11.86
27 DODO (Bra)	06.02.92
47 Jonatan LUCCA (Bra)	02.06.94
3 MARQUINHOS (Bra)	14.05.94
21 Loic NEGO (Fra)	15.01.91
23 Ivan PIRIS (Par)	10.03.89
46 Alessio ROMAGNOLI	12.01.95
MIDFIELDERS	
4 Michael BRADLEY (USA)	31.07.87
16 Daniele DE ROSSI	24.07.83
48 Alessandro FLORENZI	11.03.91
7 MARQUINHO (Bra)	03.07.86
20 Simone PERROTTA	17.09.77
15 Miralem PJANIC (Bos)	02.04.90
77 Panagiotis TACHTSIDIS (Gre)	15.02.91
11 Rodrigo TADDEI (Bra)	06.03.80
26 TALLO Gadji (IvC)	21.12.92
FORWARDS	
22 Mattia DESTRO	20.03.91
8 Erik LAMELA (Arg)	25.03.92
17 Nicolas LOPEZ (Uru)	01.10.93
9 Pablo OSVALDO	12.01.86
10 Francesco TOTTI	27.09.76
COACH	
Zdenek ZEMAN (CzR)	12.05.47

SAMPDORIA

GOALKEEPERS	
32 Tommaso BERNI	06.03.83
1 Junior COSTA (Bra)	12.11.83
95 Wladimiro FALCONE	12.04.95
22 Sergio ROMERO (Arg)	22.02.87
DEFENDERS	
13 Gaetano BERARDI (Swi)	21.08.88
3 Andrea COSTA	01.02.86
19 Lorenzo DE SILVESTRI	23.05.88
28 Daniele GASTALDELLO	25.06.83
8 Shkodran MUSTAFI (Alb)	17.04.92
15 Simon POULSEN (Den)	07.10.84
35 Jonathan ROSSINI (Swi)	05.04.89
MIDFIELDERS	
7 Paolo CASTELLINI	25.03.79
2 Marcelo ESTIGARRIBIA (Par)	21.09.87
25 Nenad KRSTICIC (Ser)	03.09.90
4 Enzo MARESCA	10.02.80
11 Gianni MUNARI	24.06.83
14 Pedro OBIANG (Spa)	27.03.92
16 Andrea POLI	29.09.89
5 RENAN (Bra)	19.06.86
21 Roberto SORIANO	08.02.91
12 Fernando TISSONE (Arg)	24.07.86
FORWARDS	
29 Juan ANTONIO (Arg)	05.01.88
98 Mauro ICARDI (Arg)	16.02.93
23 EDER (Bra)	19.11.86
10 Maxi LOPEZ (Arg)	04.03.84
9 Nicola POZZI	30.06.86
COACH	
Ciro FERRARA	11.02.67

SIENA

GOALKEEPERS	
23 Andrea CAMPAGNOLO	17.06.78
12 Simone FARELLI	19.02.83
25 Gianluca PEGOLO	25.03.81
DEFENDERS	
17 Nicola BELMONTE	15.04.87
92 Matias CAMPOS (Chl)	22.06.89
22 Matteo CONTINI	16.04.80
3 Cristiano DEL GROSSO	24.03.83
15 Hernan Paolo DELLAFIORE	02.02.85
18 FELIPE (Bra)	31.07.84
34 Matias MARTINEZ (Arg)	24.03.88
13 Luis NETO (Por)	26.05.88
24 Massimo PACI	09.05.78
33 Matteo RUBIN	09.07.87
MIDFIELDERS	
6 ANGELO (Bra)	12.06.81
36 Francesco BOLZONI	07.05.89
5 Manuel COPPOLA	11.05.82
10 Gaetano D'AGOSTINO	03.06.82
70 Daniele MANNINI	25.10.83
21 Ribair RODRIGUEZ (Uru)	04.10.87
27 Alessandro ROSINA	31.01.84
77 Alessio SESTU	29.09.83
7 Francesco VALIANI	29.10.80
8 Simone VERGASSOLA	24.01.76
16 Valerio VERRE	11.01.94
57 ZE EDUARDO (Bra)	29.10.87
FORWARDS	
81 Erjon BOGDANI (Alb)	14.04.77
11 Emanuele CALAIO	08.01.82
63 Marcelo LARRONDO (Arg)	16.08.88
9 Michele PAOLUCCI	06.02.86
91 REGINALDO (Bra)	31.07.83
COACH	
Serse COSMI	05.05.58

TORINO

GOALKEEPERS	
1 Jean-Francois GILLET (Blg)	31.05.79
26 Alfred GOMIS	05.09.93
23 Lys GOMIS	06.10.89
DEFENDERS	
31 Alessandro AGOSTINI	23.07.79
15 Pablo CACERES (Uru)	22.04.85
3 Danilo D'AMBROSIO	09.09.88
36 Matteo DARMIAN	02.12.89
5 Valerio DI CESARE	23.05.83
25 Kamil GLIK (Pol)	03.02.88
53 Marco MIGLIORINI	03.01.92
6 Angelo OGBONNA	23.05.88
2 Guillermo RODRIGUEZ (Uru)	21.03.84
MIDFIELDERS	
18 Marko BAKIC (Mne)	01.11.93
94 Willyan BARBOSA (Bra)	17.02.94
4 Migjen BASHA (Alb)	05.01.87
33 Matteo BRIGHI	14.02.81
27 Giuseppe DE FEUDIS	10.07.83
14 Alessandro GAZZI	28.01.83
21 Nicolas GOROBSOV (Arg)	25.11.89
17 Salvatore MASIELLO	31.01.82
24 Gianluca SANSONE	12.05.87
7 Mario SANTANA (Arg)	23.12.81
19 Alen STEVANOVIC (Ser)	07.01.91
8 Sergiu SUCIU (Rom)	08.05.90
20 Giuseppe VIVES	14.07.80
FORWARDS	
9 Rolando BIANCHI	15.02.83
86 Valter BIRSA (Sln)	07.08.86
11 Alessio CERCI	23.07.87
69 Riccardo MEGGIORINI	04.09.85
10 Alessandro SGRIGNA	24.04.80
77 Simone VERDI	12.07.92
COACH	
Giampiero VENTURA	14.01.48

UDINESE

GOALKEEPERS	
1 Zeljko BRKIC (Ser)	09.07.86
25 Daniele PADELLI	29.10.85
93 Wojciech PAWLOWSKI (Pol)	18.01.93
DEFENDERS	
4 Gabriele ANGELLA	28.04.89
27 Pablo ARMERO (Col)	02.11.86
17 Medhi BENATIA (Mor)	17.04.87
16 Andrea CODA	25.04.85
5 DANILO (Bra)	10.05.84
11 Maurizio DOMIZZI	28.05.80
6 Marco Davide FARAONI	25.10.91
75 Thomas HEURTAUX (Fra)	03.07.88
26 Giovanni PASQUALE	05.01.82
34 Gabriel SILVA (Bra)	13.05.91
MIDFIELDERS	
7 Emmanuel AGYEMANG-BADU (Gha)	02.12.90
3 ALLAN (Bra)	08.01.91
41 Luca BALDASSIN	28.05.94
8 Dusan BASTA (Ser)	18.08.84
21 Andrea LAZZARI	03.12.84
77 MAICOSUEL (Bra)	16.06.86
43 Davide MARSURA	20.02.94
66 Giampiero PINZI	11.03.81
42 Marco PISCOPO	09.03.94
88 WILLIANS (Bra)	29.01.86
94 Piotr ZIELINSKI (Pol)	20.05.94
FORWARDS	
9 BARRETO (Bra)	12.07.85
10 Antonio DI NATALE	13.10.77
31 Diego FABBRINI	31.07.90
24 Luis MURIEL (Col)	16.04.91
37 Roberto PEREYRA (Arg)	17.01.91
13 Mathias RANEGIE (Swe)	14.06.84
COACH	
Francesco GUIDOLIN	03.10.55

THE GREAT TEAMS

Brazil 1970

The South Americans swept aside Italy with a majestic performance in the 1970 World Cup Final

National pride...Italy and Brazil line up before the World Cup Final

The Brazil side that won the World Cup in 1970 by beating Italy 4-1 in the Final has long been seen as one of the greatest ever. Millions watching the tournament on colour television for the first time were entranced by Brazil, in their vibrant yellow shirts, playing wonderful football under the Mexican sun.

"It was not simply a magnificent and thoroughly deserved triumph for Brazil," the July 1970 edition of *World Soccer* recorded. "Here was proof that football, played the way it was meant to be, with artistry and skill, can still succeed in the modern era."

But it could have been so very different. Pele, having been kicked out of the 1966 tournament, had quit the international game. Although he was persuaded to return, relations were not good with Joao Saldanha. However, the outspoken coach, who had overseen a faultless qualifying campaign, was sacked three months before the 1970 World Cup finals as his left-wing political views did not sit comfortably with Brazil's military dictatorship. Mario Zagallo took over, but a cabal of senior players – Pele, Carlos Alberto and Gerson – played an influential role in team selection.

The team's zenith was the Final against Italy, where goals from a number of different sources was the key attribute of a side who had been well prepared by physical trainer Carlos Alberto Parreira, who would later become national coach himself. **WS**

THE COACH AND HIS TEAM

Mario Zagallo

The first man to win the World Cup as a player and coach, playing in Brazil's winning sides of 1958 and 1962. A winger, he worked hard on tracking back, earning the nickname "*Formiguinha*" (little ant). He was seen as a safe pair of hands when succeeding Joao Saldanha as coach in March 1970. Led club sides in Brazil and the Middle East before returning to take charge of Brazil for the 1998 World Cup.

Tactics

On paper Brazil lined up as a 4-2-4, but Zagallo was happy for it to be described as 4-5-1, with Pele, Jairzinho and Rivelino dropping back into midfield, leaving Tostao as a lone striker. Gerson was the deep-lying playmaker, with Clodoaldo alongside to provide protection. Pele and Tostao were both capable of dropping deep, while Jairzinho played high on the right, allowing Carlos Alberto to surge up behind him.

THE STARTING XI

Felix
Goalkeeper
Criticised as the weak link but made a number of crucial saves. Nicknamed "Paper" for his slight frame.

Carlos Alberto
Right-back
Captain and raiding full-back who scored the fourth goal against Italy in the 1970 Final.

Brito
Centre-back
Tall, rangy player with a reputation for indiscipline, but was well behaved at the 1970 finals.

Wilson Piazza
Centre-back
Converted midfielder who was moved back into central defence by Mario Zagallo.

Everaldo
Left-back
Far more defensively-minded than Carlos Alberto. He died in a car crash in 1974.

Clodoaldo
Midfielder
Enforcer who spent the bulk of his club career with Santos.

Gerson
Midfielder
Deep-lying playmaker who possessed a clever range of passing.

Jairzinho
Right-winger
Powerhouse who scored in every one of Brazil's games at the 1970 finals.

Tostao
Forward
Deployed as a striker after recovering from a major eye operation in time for the World Cup.

Pele
Forward
Operating behind Tostao, he scored the opening goal in the Final against Italy with a header.

Rivelino
Left-winger
Called in by Zagallo after being overlooked by previous coach Joao Saldanha.

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